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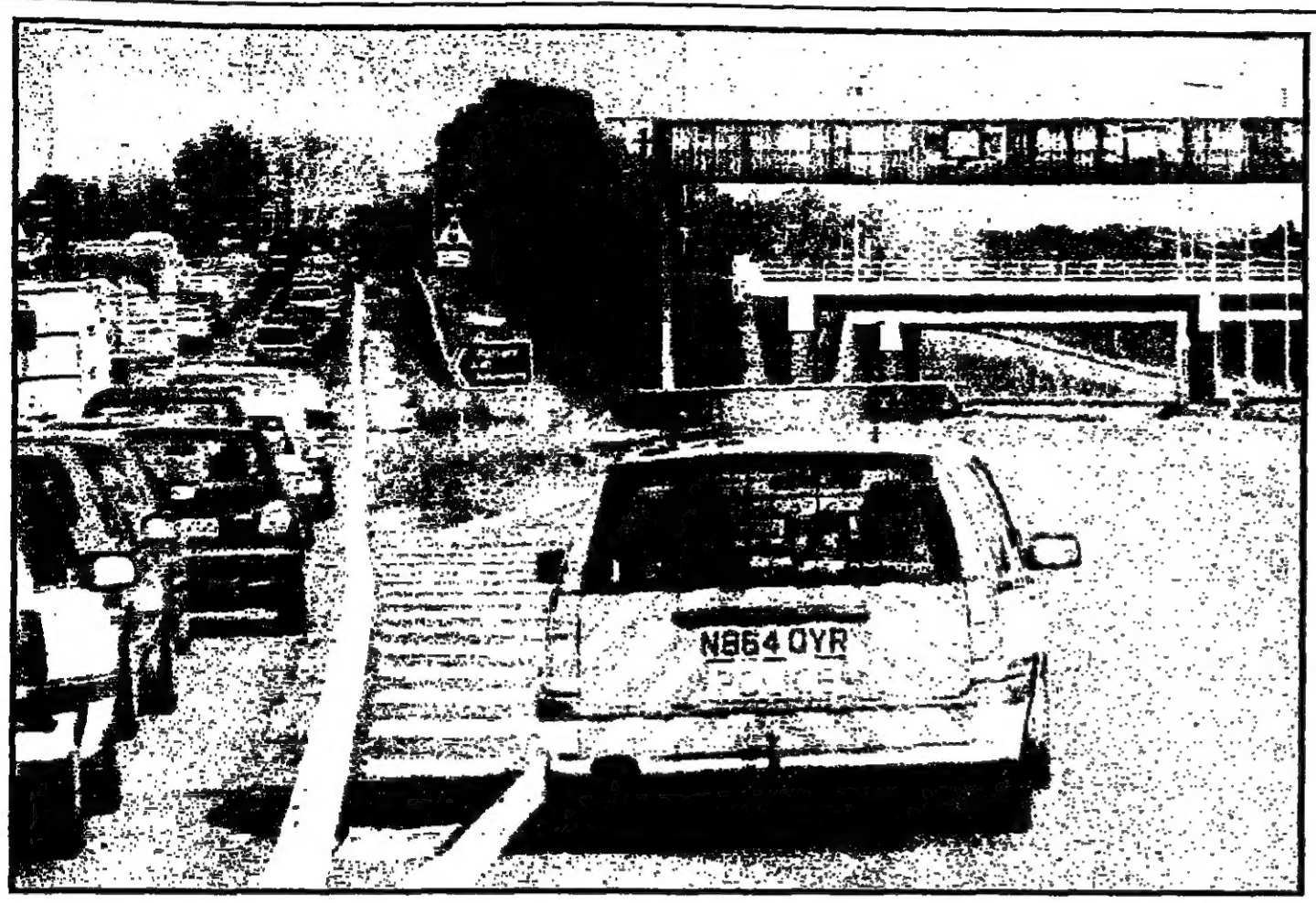
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A police car blocks the M1 motorway north of London yesterday, following bomb threats that forced the closure of major highways and the evacuation of parts of Heathrow and Gatwick airports. (AP)

Hope dims for Major on poll eve

LONDON (AP) - With voters going to the polls tomorrow and ominous warnings for Conservative Prime Minister John Major, party leaders yesterday fanned out into key districts that will decide Britain's national election.

The respected business daily, *The Financial Times*, came out for Tony Blair's Labor Party, snubbing the Conservatives, the traditional party of big business.

because of divisions over Europe. The latest Gallup poll, in line with other soundings, put the Conservatives 22 points behind Labor, a record deficit for election week.

Newspapers, quoting unidentified government officials, said Blair, 43, has already drawn up plans to move his young family into the prime minister's official residence. It would be the first time children have lived at 10 Downing St. in nearly 50 years.

Tough Tory scrap seen if Major loses, Page 5

Continued on Page 2

State attorney to represent PM, Hanegbi

By BATSHEVA TSUR and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The State Attorney's Office plans to represent Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi in a series of petitions to the High Court of Justice on the Bar-On Affair.

"The State Attorney's Office stands by its decision - that there is no evidence to prosecute the ministers - and therefore will defend them in court," a source said last night.

"There is no basis to media reports that the prosecution con-

siders the cases to be problematic," the source added, saying that a representative of the High Court division in the State Attorney's Office would appear in court.

Hanegbi is considering hiring a private lawyer to defend him. He is expected to make the decision today, after studying whether the state attorney's position is tenable in his eyes.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, of the National Religious Party, has become the third member of the interministerial committee for senior appointments, joining Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky.

The committee was formed by Netanyahu, after the release of the attorney-general's report on the Bar-On Affair, to prevent more mistakes like the abortive appointment of Roni Bar-On. Netanyahu also promised the cabinet he would be more accessible and open to discussion and said he would add professional staff to his bureau, rather than get

rid of existing people. Sharansky, who is demanding, among other things, Hanegbi's removal as justice minister, said yesterday that he would resign if Netanyahu did not accept the changes the committee proposes within one month. However, he said his demand concerning Hanegbi "was not made as an ultimatum."

Hammer and Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy met Netanyahu yesterday and suggested a number of changes in the cabinet's activity and public image. They asked him about his intentions concerning the cabinet's functioning.

"It would be a mistake to create an atmosphere of crisis. The government can complete its term on condition that the wrong things are fixed," Hammer and Levy said in a statement.

Discussions also began yesterday between Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and senior staff of the State Attorney's Office on how to present the prosecution's position in court. They are expected to continue all week.

State Attorney Edna Arbel is vacationing abroad and did not attend the meeting. She will return tomorrow. Among the seven members of Arbel's staff participating in the discussions was her deputy, Yehoshua Reznick. He was one of the three experts who presented a dissenting opinion to the Rubinstein-Arbel report and suggested that Netanyahu and Hanegbi be indicted.

The four petitions presented to the court - by the Movement for Quality Government, Meretz, Labor MKs Yossi Beilin and Yona Yahav, and by Labor MK Ophir Pines - call for indictments against Netanyahu and Hanegbi, in addition to Shas MK Aryeh Deri. They are expected to be heard together.

The court is expected to convene next week, but President Aharon Barak has not yet decided who would sit on the panel

nor when the session will be held.

The Movement for Quality Government has requested that its petition be heard separately, saying that it is different from the others because it also requests the removal of Hanegbi from his post and the suspension of Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman until the investigation into his actions is completed. The movement also points out that it is apolitical and does not want to be associated with the political petitioners.

Beilin and Yahav also have presented a second petition asking that the text of the minority opinion be published. Pines yesterday wrote to Uzi Fogelman, head of the Justice Ministry's High Court division, asking him to publish the minority opinion.

The State Attorney's Office already has said it will bring the report before the court if requested, but is expected to decide today whether or not to allow the publication earlier.

Jerusalem lawyer Yedid Ron-El and Ami Katz, the principal of a religious school, presented a fifth petition yesterday. They asked the court to order the government to establish a public commission of inquiry into the Bar-On Affair.

The petition asks that Netanyahu and Hanegbi refrain from attending a cabinet session called to set up such a commission.

A petition calling on the government to establish a commission has gathered 50,000-60,000 signatures so far, organizers said.

The NRP Knesset faction intends to meet today to discuss the petition against indicting Shas MK Aryeh Deri. The faction is expected to adopt the attorney-general's report.

Four NRP faction members - Levy, Hanan Porat, Shaul Yahalom, and Avraham Stern - already have announced they would not sign the petition and are calling to adopt the report's conclusions.

Labor to discuss commission of inquiry, Page 2

Continued on Page 2

IAF pilot with the right stuff

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The IAF, victorious on battlefields across the Middle East, has set its sights on a more distant frontier: Space.

Israel's first astronaut will be a veteran jet fighter pilot and the IAF is to foot the bill for his training in the US. He was identified as Col. A., a veteran F-16 pilot who has logged many combat missions and is an electrical engineer, the IDF Spokesman said.

The army stressed that NASA still has to approve before he is to be sent to the US for training. Col. A. has held a variety of both command and operational tasks in the IAF, including weapons research and development, the IDF said. Channel 2 said he is 38 years old and has bailed out at least once in his career.

According to Science Ministry officials, the IAF wants to send an Israeli into space to mark the state's 50th anniversary next May. The astronaut is to fly aboard a US space

Continued on Page 2

Coach boots curfew-breakers before World Cup tie

By ORI LEWIS

National soccer coach Shlomo Scharf yesterday threw five players off his 20-man squad, just 36 hours before the crucial home World Cup qualifier against Cyprus at the National Stadium in Ramat Gan this evening.

The five, four starters and a former captain, left the team hotel in Herzliya and went to a movie without informing Scharf. They failed to return in time for curfew, saying the film had gone on longer than they had expected.

The four starters are dangerous midfielders Haim Revivo, of Spanish first division side Celta Vigo, and Avi Nimni, of Maccabi Tel Aviv, left back Felix Halfon, of Hapoel Tel Aviv, and right back

David Amsalem, of league leader Bnei Yehuda.

The fifth, veteran captain Nir Klinger, who holds a record 83 caps, announced his retirement from international soccer following the incident.

Scharf's decision was met with general approval from all quarters, including from Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled, who said that the move was "a brave decision by the coach, but one which has significant disciplinary and educational implications."

"We should have informed the coach of our movements," Klinger told Channel 1 last night. "This is [a] very severe punishment, particularly for the younger players. As for me, I had already made up my mind to quit."

"It was all just a big misunderstanding, but perhaps our mistake was that we did not inform the coach," Nimni said.

Scharf said the players had let him down.

"I feel betrayed. After having discussed discipline with the team, these players went and broke the

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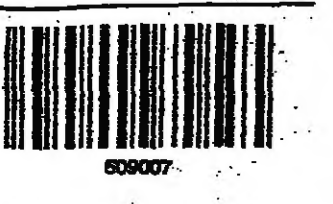
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Levy, Albright to meet next month

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
and news agencies

The meeting on the peace process between Foreign Minister David Levy and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Washington is to take place May 16, and not this week, as was reported yesterday, apparently the result of a misunderstanding.

State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns expressed surprise at the reports here that the meeting would take place on Friday, saying that Albright was traveling to Moscow this week and is not scheduled to return until Friday night. Levy does not conduct government business on Shabbat.

Burns attributed the incident to a communications foul-up, but stressed that Albright will be pleased to meet with Levy.

Levy, in his talks with Albright, is expected to reiterate the government's intention to build in Jerusalem and to continue construc-

tion in the settlements.

Levy was invited to Washington for what diplomatic sources had described as "an urgent discussion" of the peace process, during which Albright is expected to demand Israel's answer to the American initiative to jump-start the stalled peace process, presented by US special envoy Dennis Ross when he was here some two weeks ago.

Levy yesterday denied reports that the Americans are deeply disappointed with Netanyahu's failure to advance the peace process and are now establishing relations with "more moderate ministers" who may be able to influence the events.

Calling the reports "stupid and childish," he said: "I represent the government's policy and everything I do will be in accordance to the policy and in coordination with the prime minister. I repeat, the Oslo agreements have no prohibition on building either in Jerusalem or in the settlements."

Speaking to Israel Radio, Levy dismissed "such descriptions as 'disappointed.' Ross was here, there were excellent meetings on all levels, we are in touch with the State Department too. If there is disappointment, it's with the Palestinian Authority, which isn't fulfilling its basic duty to fight terrorism, prevent violence and refrain from incitement."

According to diplomatic sources, the United States is threatening to wash its hands of the peace process if Ross's next trip here fails to generate progress.

It is not clear now when Ross intends to return and according to diplomatic sources he will not do so without some indication that the two sides are willing to resume negotiations.

The sources said the Americans are especially disappointed with Israel, for while the Palestinians have accepted the American initiative, Israel has not responded to it, and is adamant in its refusal to freeze the construction

in the settlements, define the scope of future pullbacks or to discuss them with the PA.

Sources close to Levy said yesterday there had been nothing urgent about Albright's invitation, pointing out that she had previously invited Levy two weeks ago, but his trip was postponed for various reasons. The issue came up again now that Pessah was over, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the European Union is trying to revive the stalled Middle East peace process, an EU official said yesterday.

Miguel Moratinos arrived in Syria from Jordan on the second leg of a Mideast tour that will also take him to Israel and Egypt. He is expected to meet with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara today.

"We came to Damascus to share our ideas about the Palestinian-Israeli track, and of course to see ways and means to relaunch the Syrian-Israeli track," Moratinos told reporters at Damascus Airport.

Foreign minister slams Beilin for 'unauthorized diplomacy'

By SARAH HONIG
and LIAT COLLINS

Labor leadership aspirant MK Yossi Beilin came under concentrated fire yesterday for his self-initiated diplomatic contacts in the last few days.

Beilin said his sole motive is "to help this government, which seems totally unable to rescue the peace process." He strenuously denied charges from within his own party that he is motivated by the opportunity of making headlines prior to the June 3 Labor leadership primary.

However, Foreign Minister David Levy and others on the coalition side accused Beilin of "conducting potentially harmful unauthorized private diplomacy."

Beilin met Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa and the EU envoy Miguel Angel Moratinos in the region on Sunday. Yesterday he went on to meet the Jordanian and Russian ambassadors, as well as the American charge d'affaires, in order to push his five-point plan to end the stalemate in negotiations with the PA.

Levy said, "perhaps someone ought to remind Beilin that there is a government which had been elected in this country and that it and no other was given the mandate to conduct foreign policy and look out for Israel's defense. In orderly democratic societies such meddling in defiance of an elected government is simply unacceptable. I am sure that those who meet with Beilin realize that he represents no one and cannot decide for anyone, nor commit this country to anything."

However, Beilin maintained that, "every citizen is fully entitled to raise issues and take action, especially when the government is unable to." He further noted that "the Oslo process is now five years old and I started that too when we were in [the] opposition and look where it got us."

He said he has sent his proposals for pulling the peace process out of the mire to the government as well.



MK Yossi Beilin

National Religious Party Secretary General Zvulun Orlev yesterday strongly criticized the meeting between Beilin and Arafat. Orlev described the meeting as "political piracy" and said it is a "public relations attempt before the Labor Party conference." He said that Beilin had a history of acting behind the back of the elected leader and noted that Oslo had been set in motion by Beilin without the knowledge of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

He also claimed Beilin had been suspected of leaking information to the Egyptians during the discussions determining the border at Taba.

Beilin denied the charges, calling them "typical of the fascist types of attacks against the opposition and media that this coalition keeps resorting to. The charges are not surprising, but they are untrue."

"Perhaps Orlev and his friends are less worried than I am about the serious threat to the peace process and what that means for the future of the country. I am trying in my own small way to find a way to resume the talks, and instead of thanking me Orlev and his friends continue to use well-known rightist tactics and lies. I will continue to act to help the peace process and no one will stop me as long as I act within the framework of the law in a democratic country."

Mordechai: Closure to be drastically eased

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is to be drastically eased and tens of thousands of Palestinian laborers are to be let back into the country as of this morning, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday.

Mordechai revealed that some restrictions had been lifted yesterday. "We will reach a stage where life will become very reasonable. There won't be a closure, although we will increase our security activities," Mordechai told reporters during a visit to Mimouna celebrations at Ma'alot-Tarshiha in the Galilee.

He was optimistic that formulas would be found to enable continuation of peace talks with the Palestinians, although he stressed that this would not happen without a crackdown by the Palestinian Authority on terror and those who supported it.

"There won't be a closure, but we will increase our security activity and if the Palestinians also do everything that is necessary against terrorists, there will definitely be a different atmosphere to the continuation of the [peace] process," he said.

Starting at 4 a.m., 28,000 workers from the West Bank and 27,000 from the Gaza Strip are to let in to their jobs in Israel. They must be married, over 29, and have a security clearance, the army said.

Both Mordechai and Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak approved the move.

Israel started easing the closure yesterday by allowing some 5,000 Palestinian merchants to enter, and it gave travel permits to 650 Palestinian Authority officials.

Meanwhile, angry Palestinians again protested at ramparts con-



Soldiers yesterday watch Palestinians protesting the construction of ramparts around the Gaza Strip settlement Kfar Yam. (Reuters)

structed by the IDF to protect the Gush Katif settlement of Kfar Yam. The demonstrations took place despite the meetings between the IDF commander in the Gaza Strip and Palestinian Police commanders, who said they were going to stop the demonstrators.

Most of the Palestinians were from the Mawasi tribe, which lives near Khan Yunis. They claim the land was expropriated from them, but the IDF said it is Israeli territory.

Dozens of fishing boats flying the Palestinian flag anchored off

shore in support of the demonstrations.

Palestinian Minister of Planning Nabil Shaath urged the demonstrators to oppose the "expropriation."

"The land of the Mawasi is the Har Homa of the Gaza Strip," he said. "We will not give up one inch. The Israelis are violating the agreement. They are not allowed to put one structure in this place according to the agreement... They are trying to expand the settlements in an area which is explicitly prohibited for further settlement."

Palestinian officials reportedly said the IDF backed down and had agreed not to build the ramparts. The IDF declined to comment on the report and said that the land is under exclusive Israeli control.

Meanwhile, police shot and wounded a uniformed Palestinian policeman who drove through the Kessem junction checkpoint, near Hod Hasharon, in a stolen car. Police chased the car and officials said the driver tried to run down a policeman.

Police opened fire and hit the driver in the shoulder. He was

arrested, as were two passengers who also tried to escape. They turned out to be prisoners who were in the custody of the Palestinian policeman.

Col. Jabril Rajoub, head of Preventive Security, reportedly said he knew nothing of the incident.

Margot Dudkevitch adds: IDF troops overpowered a Palestinian from Nablus yesterday when he tried to steal a weapon from a soldier outside the IDF liaison base in Nablus. The IDF Spokesmen said the Palestinian was arrested.

Labor still trying to define 'president' role for Peres

By SARAH HONIG

A Labor Party committee yesterday set up a subcommittee to examine the controversial proposal of naming present chairman Shimon Peres party president - a new position which would be custom-tailored for Peres.

The subcommittee is to seek to define the new role so that it is neither too powerful nor too devoid of authority.

Party leadership candidate Ehud Barak and his supporters hotly oppose the notion, fearing that Peres may retain too much power, even after a new chairman is elected in the June 3 party primary.

The Peres-for-President proposal was officially submitted to the Labor committee on party affairs yesterday by Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zivili.

He branded those who opposed the move as "paranoids." It is high time this party stopped being dominated by paranoia and that it cease consuming its leaders. If we don't respect our

own great figures, then no one will respect this party or its candidates."

Zivili insisted that the sort of authority the new president would have, if any, not be specified at this point, but that it be left for Peres and the chairman elected on June 3 to work it out together.

Zivili also proposed that Peres be made a member of all party forums.

This panicked the Barak camp, which foresees Peres interfering in all party processes.

Barak did not outline his opposition in full at the committee session yesterday but he did argue that "this time is most unsuitable for discussion of this subject."

The Barak side is expected to oppose the proposal entirely or to demand that the position be officially defined as nothing but an honorary title.

Zivili will attempt to have his proposal voted upon in the upcoming party convention in mid-May. The Barak camp does not want it even discussed till

the September convention session.

Meanwhile, Peres's declining hopes to hold on to his waning leadership were underscored yesterday when one of his most steadfast supporters, MK Dalia Itzik, announced her support for Barak.

Itzik, one of Peres's most ardent supporters, has in the past spoken very harshly of Barak, but yesterday said that "bad Peres decided to run, I would have unhesitatingly stayed at his side. To my deepest regret, he is not running and I can't stay forever undecided."

She said she opted for Barak "because he will probably win in June. He has the best chances." Barak reportedly promised her that she "would be duly represented" in future appointments.

At Itzik's prodding, Barak said he would make sure "that a way would be found to express Peres's special standing in Labor." But apart from profuse compliments for Peres, he made no concrete commitments.

Labor to discuss inquiry into Bar-On Affair

By LIAT COLLINS

The Labor Knesset faction is scheduled to meet this morning to discuss the call for a public commission of inquiry into the Bar-On Affair. The meeting is timed to precede the special plenum session to discuss the fall-out of the affair, which was called for by Labor, Meretz, and the Likud.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid is expected to demand to receive all the material gathered by the police and attorney-general. Labor faction chairman Ra'anana Cohen is making a similar demand.

"If the prime minister has nothing to hide, why is he hiding the facts and findings?" Sarid said.

Meretz faction chairman Ran Cohen, who chairs the Knesset State Control Committee, has said the committee will discuss whether or not to ask State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat to establish such a commission of inquiry only after the High Court has ruled on the petitions pending on the matter.

MK Silvan Shalom (Likud) described the demand for a commission of inquiry as "another attempt by the opposition to topple the government after its previous attempts failed," and said there is "no moral, public or legal need for such a commission."

Ruby Rivlin (Likud) called the demand "an expression of no-confidence in the attorney-general and state attorney." He accused former attorney-general

Michael Ben-Yair, who is calling for a commission of inquiry, "of political meddling of the lowest kind."

He said Ben-Yair should have called for an inquiry to see what Labor promised former Tsomet MK Alex Goldfarb in the last Knesset in return for his support for the Oslo Accords.

Meanwhile, Shas MK Yitzhak Cohen said that scores of MKs have signed a petition calling on the attorney-general to reconsider indicting only party leader Aryeh Deri for his alleged part in the affair.

Cohen could not give an exact figure.

He said that apart from signing the petition, there were also several MKs from different parties who had written letters or articles questioning the decision, among them Tamar Goransky (Hadasah) and Shevah Weiss (Labor).

David Rudge adds: Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday came out strongly against the idea of a inquiry commission.

He told reporters during a visit to Mimouna celebrations in Ma'alot-Tarshiha that a commission of inquiry would do more harm than good.

"There were certainly mistakes which can be learned from, and many things have been rectified," he said. "I suggest, however, we beware of inquiry commissions. We cannot run our lives from one inquiry commission to the next and from rifts, one to the other, within Israeli society."

MAJOR

Continued from Page 1

ing a series of security alerts, which also forced the evacuation of parts of Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

The airports remained open during searches, and Heathrow got the all-clear less than a half-hour after the alert. At Southampton airport southwest of London, incoming flights were suspended during a security alert, but planes on the ground were allowed to depart.

Closures of stretches of the M25 motorway, which rings the capital, and of three other motorways tied up rush-hour traffic into the capital. By noon, most of the highways were reopened.

Blair, whose restyled "new Labor" has moved into much of the Conservatives' political territory, told a leftist questioner on a BBC radio phone-in he had not sold out, just modernized.

"I think this country has been crying out for a sensible, moderate alternative to the Conservative Party for a generation and now they have finally got one," said Blair.

"I refuse to believe that the Labor Party should either face a choice of being electable and unprincipled or principled but unelectable."

Major went to Brighton, a faded

resort on the south England coast that rates among the top 50 Conservative districts that Labor hopes to snatch to win power. Blair campaigned in narrowly Tory districts in Gloucestershire county, west of London.

The support of *The Financial Times* was a coup for Blair, who has courted big business.

The newspaper cited splits in the Conservatives over closer relations with the rest of the European Union and, in particular, whether to join a single European currency in 1999.

Labor has already been endorsed by the *Sun* and *News of the World* - mass circulation tabloids which are part of Rupert Murdoch's international media empire - and which previously supported the Conservatives.

During the campaign, Blair announced that Labor would not stop Murdoch and others from owning both newspapers and TV stations in Britain.

Newspapers, quoting a briefing by an unidentified Downing Street official, reported that Blair plans, if he wins, to move in with his wife, Cherie, a lawyer, and their children, Euan, 13, Nicholas, 11, and Kathryn, 9.

The last prime minister who had children at Downing Street was Labor's Clement Attlee, who moved in after defeating Winston Churchill by a landslide in 1945.

WORLD CUP

Continued from Page 1

rules," he said. "A national side must set an example for all other representative teams, and behavior of this sort is unacceptable."

Israel Football Association chairman Gavri Levy announced that the players would face further disciplinary action, which could result in a heavy fine or a lengthy ban.

Cyprus coach Stavros Papadopoulos said he could not believe his ears. "This is all just a psychological trick to knock us off balance," he said.

The IFA is expecting a crowd approaching 40,000 for today's match, which kicks off at 6 p.m.

RIGHT STUFF

Continued from Page 1

shuttle. "We are merely operating as mediators between the IAF and NASA in this effort, since we are the ones who have a cooperation agreement with NASA," ministry spokeswoman Ariella Binenboym said.

"It is all up to the IAF. They are the ones who are initiating it. We are talking about an enormous sum of money which the ministry, of course, doesn't have. But the IAF wanted to put a man in space for the 50th anniversary of the state. They are financing it. They are supplying the manpower."

The choice of the astronaut candidate was also made exclusively by the air force.

"If it was up to us we would have put out a tender opening the possibility to travel into space to others - scientists, researchers, engineers," she said.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. The speaker will be Ian Rutherford, Manager of the ANZ Bank.

To Miguel Cizin

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Hagit Zavitzky laid to rest

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Hagit Zavitzky, 23, was laid to rest in the small cemetery near Kfar Adumim yesterday afternoon. Zavitzky and her friend Liat Kastiel were murdered in Wadi Kelt on Thursday.

Among the hundreds of mourners in attendance at the funeral were Finance Minister Dan Meridor, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, MK Rehavam Ze'evi (Moledet), OC Central Command Maj. Gen. Uzi Dayan, and OC Judea and Samaria Maj. Gen. Gabi Ophir.

At the small synagogue overlooking Wadi Kelt, Zavitzky's father Yosef said Kaddish and then the mourners walked a kilometer along the hilltop to the cemetery.

"I called you Hagit because you were born at Purim, you and your twin sister Liat, but why did you leave me at Pessah?" Hagit's mother Tamar cried out.

Channel 1 reported last night that security forces were searching for a Beduin from the Kabaneh tribe who lives in the Wadi Kelt area.

Judea and Samaria Police spokesman Opher Silvan said last night that the police had nothing new to report in the murder investigation, adding that the television report regarding the Beduin was related to investigations by the security forces.



Hundreds of mourners make their way to the cemetery near Kfar Adumim where Hagit Zavitzky was buried yesterday.

(Brian Handlery)

Community copes with newest tragedy

By HERB KEINON

Kfar Adumim buried one of its children yesterday, for the second time in just over six months.

Hundreds of people attended the funeral of Hagit Zavitzky, killed with Liat Kastiel in Wadi Kelt on Thursday. That she was buried the day after Pessah brought to mind St. Sgt. Itamar Soudai, also of Kfar Adumim, who was killed last September during the riots at Joseph's Tomb in Nablus. Soudai was buried the day before Succot.

"It seems there is a tragedy every holiday," said Shoshana Weinstein, a guide at Yad Vashem who has lived in Kfar Adumim for five years. "Our year is being woven by these terrible losses."

"When tragedies occur one after the other," said Rabbi Reuven Grodner, a resident of the settlement for the last 13 years, "it evokes questions. When something happens more than the statistical average, one has a tendency to look inward."

Looking inward was one of the immediate reactions to the news of Hagit's murder. The community's rabbi spoke on Shabbat of the importance of performing acts of charity and kindness.

Other reactions in the settlement to news of the murders were strict directives not to walk down into Wadi Kelt, where the two were killed. For those who have never been to Kfar Adumim, this seems the obvious, self-evident, natural conclusion to draw. But for many residents of the community, these directives run very much against their grain.

The community's losses, sadly enough, don't stop with Soudai and Zavitzky. A number of months prior to the killing of Soudai, another resident of the community, a father in his 40s, dropped dead of a heart attack. Four days earlier, a woman in her 20s was killed in an auto accident.

Kfar Adumim, a community of some 200 families that sits on a hill overlooking the Jerusalem-Jericho road, prides itself in being a harmonious microcosm of Israel: religious and secular, Sephardim and Ashkenazim, immigrants and native-born Israelis. And, as such, the tragedies that befall the country are bound to befall the settlement as well. Both "expected" tragedies, like car accidents and heart attacks, and unnatural ones, like murder at the hands of terrorists.

Ze'ev Ben-Shahar, one of the founders of the settlement in 1979, draws no connection between the community's spate of tragedies.

"Itamar was killed at Joseph's Tomb, in completely different circumstances," he said of Soudai. "What is the connection?"

But children see things differently. The teachers and psychologists at Kfar Adumim's school have been working overtime trying to cope with children's anxiety stemming from the latest murder, including the feeling among a few of the kids that there is a connection between the spate of tragedies—and that the connection is a "curse."

One settlement employee, who requested anonymity, said that in one class of 25 students, four of the students have lost a member of their immediate family within the last four years—a statistic that has fed their fears of Kfar Adumim as a hard-luck community.

From a park on the outer rim of the settlement, Wadi Kelt is just a few minutes' walk, slip and slide down a steep hill. The water flowing through the wadi can, on a rainy day, be heard in the community's school. The wadi is to Kfar Adumim what the sea is to Tel Aviv, what the crater is to Mitzpe Ramon. It is an overwhelming physical presence, a pull, an attraction.

Which may explain why Hagit and Liat went hiking there, even though four Israelis have been killed there since October 1993. Which is why the settlement is once again stressing to its residents not to hike there except in groups of 15 or more, and only when one of them is carrying an automatic weapon. Which is why an extra effort is being made to impress upon the settlement's children and youth not to just walk down the hill, which looks so peaceful and so innocent, and into the wadi, which winds like a snake.

Ezra Korman, an educator who has lived in the community for four years, said the murder has "shaken people, it has planted the idea that something could happen in area they see as their backyard. It is a warning light."

A warning light that, at least in Grodner's case, already has been heeded.

"Last night, for the first time since living here, I began locking my doors at night," Grodner said. "Our quality of life has been attacked. Now we have to lock our doors. The audacity and boldness of the Palestinians has increased. Their next step will be to enter the settlements."

Hizbullah threatens to fire Katyushas 'if appropriate'

By DAVID RUDGE

Deputy Hizbullah leader Sheikh Naim Kassem has again warned that the organization will launch Katyusha rocket attacks on Israel if it decides such action is appropriate.

The organization stressed, however, that it deliberately targeted IDF and South Lebanese Army positions in the barracks last Friday, but not Israeli or Lebanese villages.

The Grapes of Wrath monitoring group began a hearing yesterday into a complaint by Israel over the Hizbullah shelling on Friday, in which some mortar shells exploded within Israeli territory.

Israel also charged that the firing originated from inside villages north of the security zone, a flagrant breach of the understandings reached at the end of the cross-border fighting a year ago.

Kassem said in a statement broadcast on Hizbullah's Nur radio station that the Islamic Resistance, the organization's

fighting arm, would choose the right form of retaliation to the "occupation and continued attacks on Lebanese civilians."

"If it is in our interest to retaliate with Katyusha rockets, we will do just that, even on Israeli settlements," he was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, senior IDF and UNIFIL officers are due to meet in Marjayoun today, following an incident on Sunday in which troops from the international peacekeeping force's Norwegian battalion blocked the path of IDF troops on patrol in the eastern sector of the security zone.

The IDF troops eventually pulled back to avoid a confrontation with the UN soldiers, but decided to prevent members of the Norwegian battalion from moving about in areas under IDF control.

The restrictions were subsequently lifted, following telephone calls between UNIFIL and IDF liaison officers. Nevertheless, the meeting was called to prevent further misunderstandings.

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DETAILS AT BRANCH

Work sanctions expected

By DAVID HARRIS
and ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Government workers are scheduled to resume sanctions today in an ongoing pay dispute with the Treasury.

Some 10,000 workers at 15 ministries began to disrupt work before Pessah, which reduced services to the public. Thus far the Foreign, Defense, and Labor and Social Affairs ministries have not been affected.

The Treasury and union leaders reached an agreement last summer that added a monthly NIS 205, three-quarters of which became payable in July and the remainder this January, at a cost of some NIS 50 million.

Under the agreement the additional payment was to be changed from a shekel amount to a percentage of the wage from this month. However, the workers' representatives have made new demands, which would add a further NIS 5m., according to Treasury wage director Yossi Kucik.

Both sides have threatened to take the dispute to the National Labor Court if it is not resolved immediately. The sides are expected to meet for talks today.

Meanwhile, the Teachers Union said yesterday that it would disrupt the opening of the 1997/98 school year in September if cuts in the education budget that have reportedly been discussed are implemented.

In a letter to Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, union secretary-

general Avraham Ben-Shabbat said that the reported cuts, which would include the firing of teachers, "would cause irreparable damage to the educational system."

The Secondary School Teachers Association, meanwhile, declared a labor dispute against the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry and the ORT and Amal school systems, over plans to shut down dozens of technical schools, which train youngsters who work part of the week and study at the schools the rest of the week.

The schools are to be closed because of low budgets provided by the Labor Ministry, which oversees and funds them.

Budgets for the Labor Ministry-supported schools are 25 percent lower than at Education Ministry-

supported ones, the association said. But teachers at the schools receive the same salaries as their counterparts at Education Ministry-supported schools, creating budget deficits of tens of millions of shekels.

As a result, the ORT and Amal systems plan to fire hundreds of teachers in some 60 schools, the association said.

Ran Erez, chairman of association's directorate, said "thousands of pupils could be thrown into the streets," and would have difficulty finding suitable educational alternatives.

The closure of the schools would be another blow to technical education in Israel, he added, and suggested transferring the schools to the Education Ministry's aegis.

Swiss banks ask court to drop Holocaust lawsuits

ZURICH (Reuters) - Switzerland's three biggest banks have petitioned a US court to dismiss or delay lawsuits charging them with hoarding unclaimed deposits of Holocaust victims.

Attorneys for the banks, in a letter to Judge Edward Korman of the Eastern District of New York, said the banks have been and are still ready to discuss a settlement.

But some of the parties involved in the suit are no longer willing to delay legal proceedings while talks proceed.

The letter proposes that because of the novel nature of the complaints, the court should address the defendants' motions to dismiss or stay the cases, the attorneys for the banks said in a summary of a 16-page letter to the court released yesterday.

The class-action lawsuits seek billions of dollars in damages from

Credit Suisse Group, Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corp. "The banks remain willing to discuss settlement. The banks are committed to resolving these problems in a positive way," the letter said.

"However, it now appears that there is no longer a consensus among the parties to stay these proceedings while discussions take place. Accordingly, it is necessary to address how these cases should proceed."

Claimants, who include Holocaust survivors and their heirs, slave laborers under the Nazis, and the World Council of Orthodox Jewish Communities, allege the banks failed to hand back wealth left by Holocaust victims.

A federal court judge has given the banks until May 15 to respond to the complaints.

Attorneys for the banks argued

that the claims in these cases implicate the interests of government governments and involve events that occurred outside the United States more than 50 years ago.

They noted that the banks and the Swiss government have taken a number of steps to address the allegations, including creating an independent panel to search for unclaimed wealth that may have escaped two previous audits.

The government has also established a commission of historians to probe neutral Switzerland's wartime role as a financial center and has proposed selling part of its official gold reserves to finance a huge humanitarian fund.

Banks and other private businesses have also donated more than \$265 million to a memorial fund that will support needy Holocaust victims.

West Bank water pollution at 'dangerous level'

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Water pollution in the West Bank "has crossed a red line," according to a report the Institute for Peace Implementation released last night.

Water Commission and Palestinian Water Authority experts told IPI researchers that Israel and the Palestinian Authority both are responsible for the dangerous level of sewage seeping into ground water sources and only a joint effort will prevent a crisis.

Some settlements have not been disposing of their sewage appropriately and the civil administration neglected the sewage infrastructure in the West Bank for decades, according to the report, "Water Pollution in the West Bank: Overcoming Political Stumbling

Blocks to a Solution." However, the PA has not maintained the existing facilities, partially in an attempt to press Israel to make concessions on permanent status issues, it continued.

The Palestinian-Israeli Joint Water Committee is scheduled to discuss these issues at its meeting today.

A joint Israeli-PA effort to purify sewage waste water would solve the problem, according to the report, which Ziv Hellman and Pinhas Inbari wrote. However, issues such as how to allocate the purified water and where to build the treatment plants, which both could effect final status arrangements, are delaying this.

The IPI studies issues involved in implementing permanent status arrangements, as well as economic development and democratization in the region.

Ashdod officials: No wall to suit haredim

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Ashdod Municipality officials yesterday denied reports that a local high school would be surrounded by a high wall to avoid offending neighboring haredim.

However, municipality spokesman Avi Hausman confirmed that trees and other vegetation would be planted to separate the school from nearby buildings.

According to the Hebrew press, an agreement had been reached with the haredim to plant the vegetation around the school, in the city's Het neighborhood, but the haredim reneged. Instead, another agreement was reached to build a high wall between the school, which has been operating for 17 years, and the haredi housing project, which was completed three years ago.

The decision to build a separation stemmed from complaints by the haredim that the high school pupils' provocative dress offended them. On Purim, haredim interfered with a party at the school, blaring noise through loudspeakers.

Hausman denied the press reports, and said the original agreement is still in effect.

"The mayor met with the haredim and the principal, and it was decided that no walls would be built, just the trees and other vegetation around a certain part of the school," he said.

Agudat Yisrael city councilor Asher Levy confirmed the plans involved only a "green" separation, adding that when the school put on various outdoor performances, a "curtain" would be constructed to block the stage.

Compromise reached on friendly fire probe

By BATSHEVA TSUR and Itim

A compromise agreement was reached yesterday in the High Court of Justice, when the parents of fallen soldier Dvir Mor-Haim acceded to a court suggestion that a senior army officer represent them in questioning the IDF about the incident in which their son was killed.

Mor-Haim was killed by friendly fire in May 1993, together with three other soldiers, while on combat duty in Lebanon. His parents, Ruti and Avinoam, petitioned the court to order the IDF to reveal to them the exact circumstances of their son's death.

Yesterday, Justices Aharon Barak, Yitzhak Zamir, and Dalia Dorner proposed that Maj.-Gen. Benzion Farhi, the outgoing president of the military appeals court, serve as go-between between the family and the IDF. Farhi will receive from the army the details of an internal investigation, and the parents will be able to pose questions to the army via him.

Farhi is on study leave before retiring from active military service. This puts him in the position of satisfying the parents' demand that the person involved not be dependent for his promotion on the IDF and the army's stipulation for an insider.

The compromise was agreed on in court, but Ruti Mor-Haim said later: "This is a forced compromise. There was never a fatal accident in the IDF in which no investigation was carried out," except for the internal investigation in the unit following the battle. She charged that the army had until now "whitewashed the situation," but said she was hopeful it would now get to the truth.

The option remains open for the Mor-Haims to return to the court to request a full-scale Military Police investigation.



A customs official goes through the suitcase of a returning vacationer yesterday at Ben-Gurion Airport.

(Dan Oren/Israel Sun)

Travelers greeted by customs crackdown

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Dozens of returning vacationers who tried to pass through the "green" customs line at Ben-Gurion Airport as if they had nothing to declare, walked right into a Customs Authority crackdown to uncover smuggled items.

Customs spokeswoman Idit Lev-Zarhia said that by yesterday evening customs officials had found 10 hidden television sets, three video cameras, four car radio-

tape or compact disk players, 30 liters of alcoholic drinks, 50 cartons of cigarettes, and clothing in what she described as "commercial quantities."

By this morning, when most of those abroad for Pessah are expected to have returned, the number of items will probably be double what they were last night, she predicted.

The big surprise was the number of people who went through the "red" channel [to declare items], she said, adding that those who did

so may have noticed the increased activity by customs officials in the green channel, or may have heard rumors that a customs campaign was underway.

Lev-Zarhia said that the campaign began on Monday evening and then continued throughout yesterday.

She noted that in the duty-free shop at the airport, items which are subject to customs fees and left for passengers to pick up when they return are put into boxes with a red

stripe, while duty-free items are put into a box with a green stripe.

However, some passengers take items out of the red-striped boxes and put them in their luggage. As part of the campaign, she said, plainclothes customs officers circulated among passengers to catch such offenders.

In terms of savings on taxes, she said, cigarettes are among the most profitable items to smuggle, followed by alcoholic drinks and cheap clothing from the Far East.

Synthetic hormone reduces need for transfusions in preemies

By JUDY SIEGEL

A hormone produced by genetic engineering that allows premature babies to produce by themselves the needed amount of red blood cells instead of undergoing blood transfusions is being used at Bnai Zion Hospital in Haifa, after the successful completion of clinical trials at several Israeli hospitals.

The use of synthetically produced erythropoietin, which in natural form is produced by the kidneys and released into the bloodstream in response to low oxygen levels, has been approved by the Health Ministry.

Preemies born weighing up to 1.5 kilos after a pregnancy of fewer than 32 weeks usually need many blood transfusions during their hos-

pitalization because blood samples must frequently be taken to monitor their condition. But transfusions expose them to infectious diseases and may even endanger their lives.

According to Dr. David Bader, head of the government hospital's neonatal intensive-care unit, the use of the imported synthetic hormone allows the infant to produce all the red blood cells he or she needs, without causing side effects or posing risks.

IDF study reveals increase in women smokers

By JUDY SIEGEL

A "worrying phenomenon" of more teenage girls and young women smoking and beginning at younger ages has been reported by the IDF Medical Corps, which has just released results of a long-term study of smoking habits among soldiers.

Writing in the just-released issue of *Harefuah*, the journal of

the Israel Medical Association, Chief IDF Medical Officer Dr. Yehoshua Shemer and Dr. Yitzhak Ashkenazi report on a yearly sample of 2,000 men and women soldiers. Between 1980 and 1995, a representative sample of 32,000 were interviewed when mobilized and then again on the day of their discharge about their lifestyle and health habits.

In 1981, 59% of the men said on their discharge that they smoked; in 1994, the figure had gone down to its lowest point, 39%. In women, the situation was different: Smoking rates fell from 43% in 1981 to 25% in 1991, but then rose to 32% - the highest women's smoking rate since 1987. About 28% of the general adult population smokes.

Two-thirds of the men and half of the women smokers queried

started smoking before 18. More than a quarter of the men and an eighth of the women started smoking before 15, the researchers found.

They were amazed that while the percentage of men starting to smoke during basic training was 7.1%, the percentage of women who took up smoking during their much shorter basic training averaged 7.8%.

Among male smokers, the number of cigarettes smoked daily dropped to 16, but in women, it fell to 11.6 in 1989 and then rose again to 13.1.

The Medical Corps doctors urge increasing anti-smoking information campaigns among high school pupils, especially among girls, and at workplaces of the relatively few teenagers who have dropped out of school and smoke heavily.

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Buckingham Palace security fails

By MICHAEL WEST

LONDON (AP) — An escaped mental patient who got into the grounds of Buckingham Palace has triggered a new security alert, a call for better royal protection and a high-level police investigation.

Scotland Yard said in a brief statement Monday night that the man was in the grounds of Queen Elizabeth II's London home for only a few minutes at around 7:30 a.m. Monday "before he was escorted from the premises and later arrested."

News reports yesterday differed. The London tabloid *The Sun* said the shaven-headed man climbed a tree by a wall to get in without triggering electronic surveillance equipment and was in the grounds for nearly an hour, undetected by guards.

The Sun, without explaining the source of its information, said the man walked out through the front gates of the palace past police officers on guard there who assumed

he had been in the grounds legitimately and wished him "Good morning." *The Times* said he got into a cab when he left the palace and told the driver what he had done. *The Times* said it was only when the cab driver contacted police that the man was arrested.

Scotland Yard said the intruder did not get into the palace building itself. The queen and her husband Prince Philip were at Windsor Castle west of London at the time.

Commander Peter Clarke, head of Scotland Yard's Royal and Diplomatic Protection Squad, is leading an investigation.

Security services throughout Britain are on high alert following a spate of small bomb explosions by the Irish Republican Army combined with false bomb warnings. Police with heavy machine guns are patrolling some London streets. The IRA, fighting British rule in Northern Ireland, seeks to make its presence felt by voters before Britain's national election tomorrow

by snarling the nation's road and rail network.

Scotland Yard did not identify the intruder but *The Sun* identified him as Alastair Coe. On Monday night, he was taken back to the mental hospital unit at St. Leonard's-on-Sea 85 kilometers southeast of central London from which he escaped last week. Scotland Yard said no legal action will be taken against him.

The London newspaper *The Daily Telegraph* called for a review of royal security and said in an editorial: "It is quite absurd that the safety of the queen and the royal family should be treated so lackadaisically." Security was tightened in 1982 after another man with mental problems, Michael Fagan, twice got into the palace. On the second occasion, Fagan climbed a drainpipe into the queen's bedroom and spent 10 minutes sitting on her bed holding a broken ashtray and talking with her before guards arrived.

The worst breach of royal security occurred in 1974 when gunman Ian Ball tried to abduct the queen's daughter Princess Anne as she and her first husband, Mark Phillips, were being chauffeured along the approach road to Buckingham Palace.

Ball forced the limousine to stop and brandished a pistol.

The kidnapping bid was thwarted but Anne's bodyguard was shot and wounded. Ball was sent to a mental hospital.

In 1993, anti-nuclear demonstrators scaled the palace walls with ladders and sang on the lawn before being arrested. In 1994, American para-glider James Miller landed on the palace roof as a stunt. In 1995, a man rammed the palace gates in a car.

In other royal security alarms this year, a man accused of stalking Anne was arrested and an intruder broke into the grounds of Kensington Palace in London where Princess Diana has an apartment.

WORLD

in brief

Turks kill 27 Kurdish rebels

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (AP) — Turkish troops killed 27 Kurdish rebels on the mountains of the southeast, regional officials said yesterday.

The operation was launched after the rebels killed five village guards in Mardin province on Monday. The village guards help the troops in their fight against the autonomy-seeking Kurdish rebels.

The army has stepped up its ground and air attacks against the Kurdish insurgents since March.

Five Iranians drown trying to slip into Greece

KUSADASI, Turkey (AP) — The bodies of five Iranians who drowned while trying to sneak into Greece washed ashore near this Turkish resort town yesterday.

Their boat sank Monday within sight of the Greek island of Samos. Kusadasi lies some 80 kilometers south of the Aegean port city of Izmir. Eight Iraqis drowned in March during a similar attempt.

Five children die in Nile boat accident

CAIRO (AP) — Five children drowned when the fishing boat they stole during an outing to celebrate the spring holiday capsized on the Nile, police said yesterday.

The boys, ranging in age from 9-years-old to 12-years-old, drowned Monday during Shem el-Nessim, a national holiday marking the beginning of spring.

The boys found the boat unattended on the shore of the Nile in their village of Abu el-Gheit in Qalubiyia province north of Cairo. They took the boat on the river, where strong currents and winds capsized the vessel.

UK factory explosion leaves one missing

LONDON (AP) — An explosion at a chemical factory yesterday sent up heavy clouds of smoke and seriously injured one person, police said. Firemen and police searched for one missing employee.

Factories, homes and businesses near the Kemast Chemicals Ltd. plant in Bleckley near Milton Keynes, about 80 km northwest of London, were evacuated. The chemicals and their toxicity had not yet been identified, but local residents were advised to keep windows and doors shut.

The Buckinghamshire Fire Brigade said eight fire trucks and more than 40 firemen were fighting a blaze at the plant, which is located in the Mount Farm industrial park.

Afghan religious police on beating spree

KABUL (AP) — The Taliban's religious police publicly beat 10 people in the Afghan capital yesterday for defying strict Islamic edicts.

The Taliban beat five men who had trimmed their beards, a crime in Taliban-run areas. Three women were beaten with electrical wires after they ventured outside wrapped in huge shawls rather than the all-enveloping burqa the Taliban require women to wear. Two taxi drivers also received public beatings after they picked up female passengers unaccompanied by men. According to the Taliban a woman must be accompanied by a male relative.

Saudi Arabia beheads kidnaper

DUBAI (Reuters) — Saudi Arabia yesterday beheaded a Saudi man for kidnapping and raping another man in the city of Taif. It was the second beheading in two days and raised to 22 the number of people put to death in the kingdom this year. Another Saudi man was executed Monday for smuggling hashish.

Mexico's Popocatepetl volcano erupts

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) — Mexico's Popocatepetl volcano erupted four times early yesterday morning, throwing up molten material that started fires on grazing pastures on the mountain-side. Authorities alerted people living close to the crater in case of the need to evacuate. The volcano is 65 kilometers from Mexico City.

Romanians eat themselves sick

BUCHAREST (AP) — One person died and hundreds of others received medical treatment after gorging on Orthodox Easter fare, a hospital spokeswoman said yesterday.

"Every year we get people coming to the hospital after they have eaten too much on such occasions," said Mioara Suta, secretary to the director at Bucharest's Emergency Hospital.

She said 250 people had sought medical help at the capital's main hospital over the long holiday weekend, most of them with digestive disorders.

A traditional Easter dinner, which comes after a Lenten fast when meat and dairy products are not eaten, includes up to seven courses. Rich food such as lamb, lamb soup, cabbage rolls stuffed with pork, cheesecake and boiled eggs are on the menu.

One Bucharest resident died Sunday after he choked on a piece of meat during the Easter festivities, the daily *Libertatea* reported yesterday.

Tough Tory scrap seen if Major loses

LONDON (Reuters) — With polls indicating voters will cast Britain's Conservatives into the political desert tomorrow, speculation is now centered on the election after the election — the one for the Conservative party's leadership.

How a party that was deeply and openly divided even in office would react to the reality of opposition after 18 years in power is fascinating political analysis.

Their conclusion — it would not be a pretty sight if Prime Minister John Major resigns quickly and leaves a number of former ministers to fight tooth and nail for the party's ideological soul.

"It would be an extremely bloody affair," said Ivor Crewe, a professor at the University of Essex. "There would be two civil wars going on — between right and left and within these two camps."

Much could depend on the scale of any defeat. Polling expert Peter Kellner predicts the party could win just 210 of the 659 seats at stake, less than two thirds of the number they won in the 1992 election, if opinion polls are right.

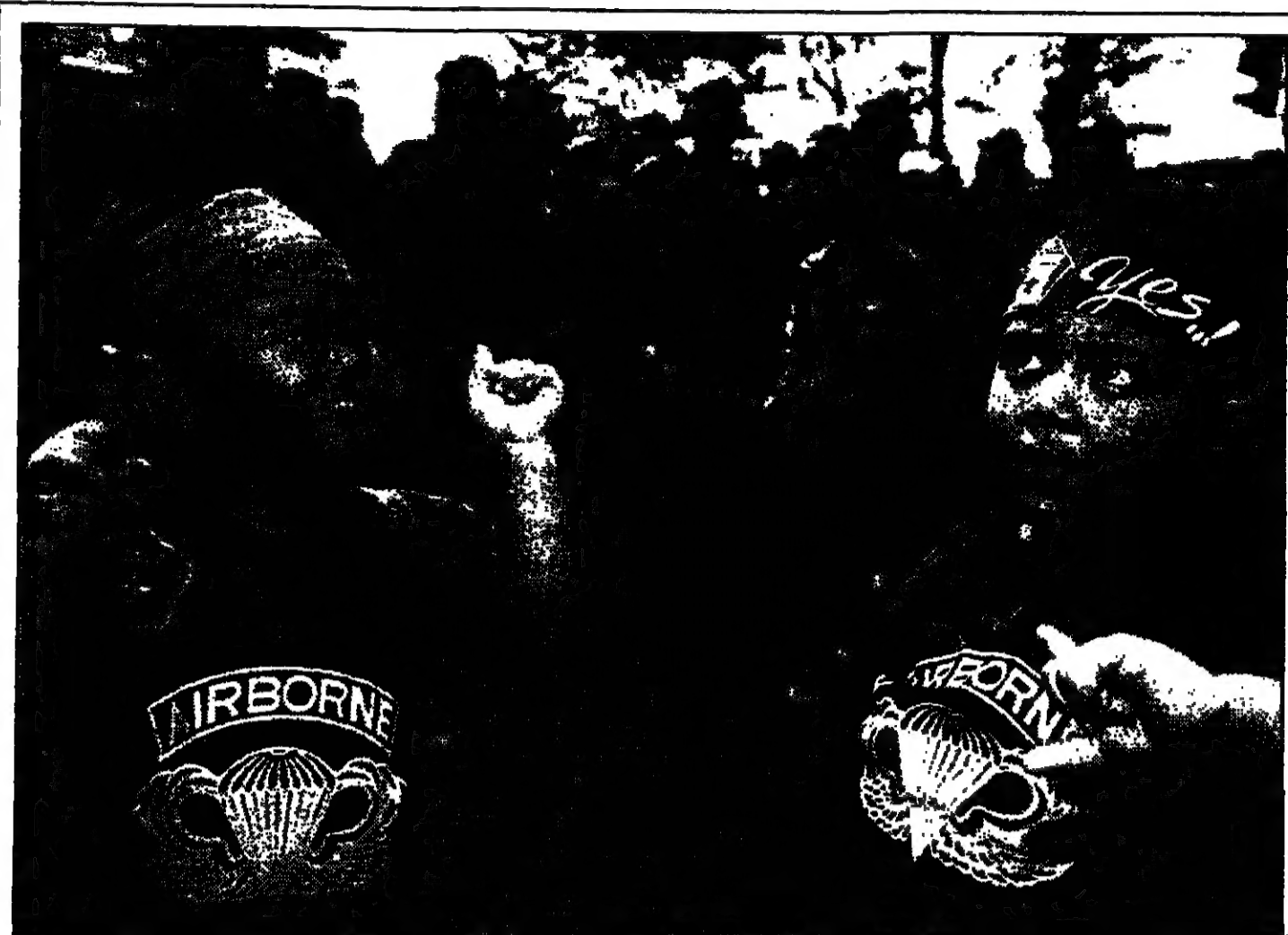
Such an electoral earthquake could leave some ministers and possible future candidates, such as Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, without a parliamentary seat.

Right-wingers such as Defense Secretary Michael Portillo and John Redwood, the former cabinet minister who challenged Major for the leadership in 1995, are expected to press for an early poll. Representing the center of the party would be Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine and possibly Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell. The "left" of the party would look to finance minister and pro-European Kenneth Clarke.

But most of these have powerful enemies. "There are so few ministers who have broad support," said Norton.

The wild card is Welsh Secretary William Hague. Only 36, Hague has not been in government long enough to make enemies and has been careful to keep equidistant between the pro- and anti-Europeans. Another possible successor, and probably Major's choice, is Chris Patten. He is currently out of the running, having lost his seat at the last election and gone to Hong Kong as the colony's last governor. But his job there ends June 30 and he could theoretically be in parliament in time for any full leadership battle.

If the Conservatives vote in a candidate from the right of the party, a split cannot be ruled out. "You might get 10 or 20 Conservative MPs, for a mixture of little Englander and personal motives, quitting," said Tom Nossiter, politics lecturer at the London School of Economics.



Indonesia election under way

Two Indonesian boys stand in front of riot policemen during a rally for the Moslem United Development Party in Jakarta yesterday. Tens of thousands of supporters who flocked to the rally were stopped by police. Campaigning for Indonesia's general election began last weekend. The polls are May 29.

(Reuters)

Erbakan threatens new elections

By NATICE AYDOĞDU

ANKARA (Reuters) — Turkey's Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, facing mounting challenges to his authority from the army and others in the secularist establishment, said yesterday he was prepared for new elections at any moment.

"Today at any moment, whoever wants it, we are ready for elections," Erbakan told deputies from his Islam-based Welfare Party.

But he added there was no alternative to his 10-month-old coalition with the conservatives of Deputy Prime Minister Tansu Ciller.

"The current government is the only solution and the only chance for Turkey. There are no alternatives," he said.

Turkey's political leaders were scrambling yesterday to find a new government formula excluding Erbakan, in the midst of a row between the Islamists and the military over religious activism that threatens to topple the government. Democratic Left Party leader Bulent Ecevit was meeting other opposition leaders for talks on forming an "Islamist-free" government. After meeting Ecevit, main opposition Motherland Party leader Mesut Yilmaz issued a call to all parties excluding Welfare for talks establishing an alternative government.

Ciller, who was Turkey's first



Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan (left) shakes hands with Chief of Staff Gen. Ismail Hakkı Karadayı yesterday after a meeting in Ankara.

(Reuters)

woman prime minister, has so far stood by Erbakan, but his Welfare Party has made clear it was not prepared to go along with some military demands aimed at curbing a rise in Islamist activism since he came to power.

A leading army commander earlier warned the Islamists that the

military struggle against the religious revival was vital to the survival of the secular republic.

Erbakan told deputies from his party he believed the armed forces, which have brought down three civilian governments since 1960, would act within the democratic system.

"The army is completely loyal to democracy," Erbakan said.

"Let no one make use of the army for their own purposes." Referring to rumors of a fourth military coup, Erbakan, modern Turkey's first Islamist leader, said: "It's all lies, it's all hollow, it's all empty."

Australian Jews want meeting with Kohl

SYDNEY (AP) — The Jewish community in Australia is trying to arrange a meeting with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl during his upcoming visit to discuss compensation for Holocaust survivors.

The president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Diane Shteinman, said yesterday that a fund created by the German government in 1993 had gone a long way to help.

Shteinman said, however, strict criteria attached to the fund made life difficult for thousands of Australian survivors who want to claim compensation. Shteinman is also a director of

the Claims Conference.

Eighteen thousand Jewish survivors emigrated to Australia, but that number increased with the arrival of Jews from Hungary, the former Czechoslovakia and the former Soviet Union.

Shteinman said only people who spent at least six months in a "registered concentration camp" were eligible for the initial payment of 5,000 marks (NIS 10,000) and monthly pensions. This excluded those who spent the war years in forced labor camps or in hiding. "How do you come up with documents proving this?" she said.

US presses Zaire leaders to talk

KINSHASA (AP) — As rebels reportedly seized another key city, the United States yesterday urged President Mobutu Sese Seko and rebel chief Laurent Kabila to meet "without delay" and negotiate an end to their standoff.

The United States' UN ambassador, Bill Richardson, said he delivered a "strong message" to Mobutu when they met in private for an hour at Mobutu's hilltop palace in the Zairean capital.

Richardson planned to fly directly to rebel-held Lubumbashi for a meeting late yesterday with Kabila.

"There can be no military solution to this crisis. President Mobutu and rebel leader Kabila must meet face-to-face without delay," Richardson told reporters.

"President Mobutu assured me he is ready to meet Mr. Kabila immediately."

In South Africa, the Department of Foreign Affairs said the two sides had decided upon a meeting site and were trying to decide on a date. It was not clear if they had accepted a South African offer to use one of its naval ships as the venue.

Mobutu appeared briefly with Richardson on the veranda of his residence and shook the US envoy's hand but made no statement. The

Washington Post quoted unidentified diplomatic sources yesterday as saying Richardson had been directed by President Bill Clinton to try to persuade Mobutu to step down and to use his recent battle with prostate cancer as an excuse for leaving office. Mobutu spent several months undergoing treatment in Europe earlier this year.

Richardson refused to go into detail about his conversation with Mobutu, saying only: "We were both very frank. I carried a strong message."



Bill Richardson

(Reuters)

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Political pandering

On Sunday, the Labor Party sent a delegation of its Young Guard on a visit of support to indicted Shas MK Aryeh Deri. The attempts by politicians from across the spectrum – but particularly from Labor – to pander to Deri, show they are shedding crocodile tears over the rule of law they claim to find so threatened by the Bar-On Affair.

Labor leaders Shimon Peres and Ehud Barak each visited Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef last week, and distanced themselves from State Attorney Edna Arbel's and Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's recommendation to indict Deri.

As Barak put it after meeting Yosef, "it is clear to all and sundry that Netanyahu is far more guilty than Deri and that [Justice Minister Tzahi] Hanegbi, from another direction, is no less guilty than Deri. That Netanyahu and Hanegbi should get off and that Deri should be left holding the bag is unthinkable."

At the same time, Barak warned, "Using the language of 'us and them' is dangerous ... allowing this to become an issue of hatred between Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jews is asking for disaster."

The nuance behind sympathizing with Deri, but not with his ethnic politics, seems to have escaped Labor's younger representatives. One member of the Labor delegation, Roni Na'aman, told Deri: "You are a great man, Aryeh. You are made of the stuff great leaders are made of. You are the sort suited to lead the country and they are trying to bring you down. We are impressed by your talent and wisdom and we wish you success. We know you are being discriminated against."

Even allowing for youthful exuberance, this was an extraordinary testimonial in defense of the leading actor in the Bar-On Affair. If Deri is a role model, one can only imagine the heights of political arm-twisting – to put it politely – to which this young Laborite aspires.

But the Labor Party cannot keep having it both ways.

First, Labor cannot accuse Netanyahu of the political crime of the century and treat Deri as a victim, when the crime that Netanyahu is alleged to have committed involved listening to Deri. Many have pointed out the incongruence of indicting Deri for extortion, without indicting Netanyahu, who allegedly capitulated to Deri's demands. But while extortion without a victim is, at best, improbable, an extortion victim without an extortioner is impossible.

Second, Labor cannot decry the fomenting of

ethnic tensions, while coddling a politician who cynically fans such tensions to promote his career. Rather than pop Deri's ethnic balloon, Labor leaders have been pumping it up by refusing to dismiss charges of ethnic bias in the Arbel/Rubinstein report. Do Peres and Barak really believe that the report would not have recommended that Deri be indicted if he was an Ashkenazi? And just who are the "they" who the young Labor leader claims are out to get Deri?

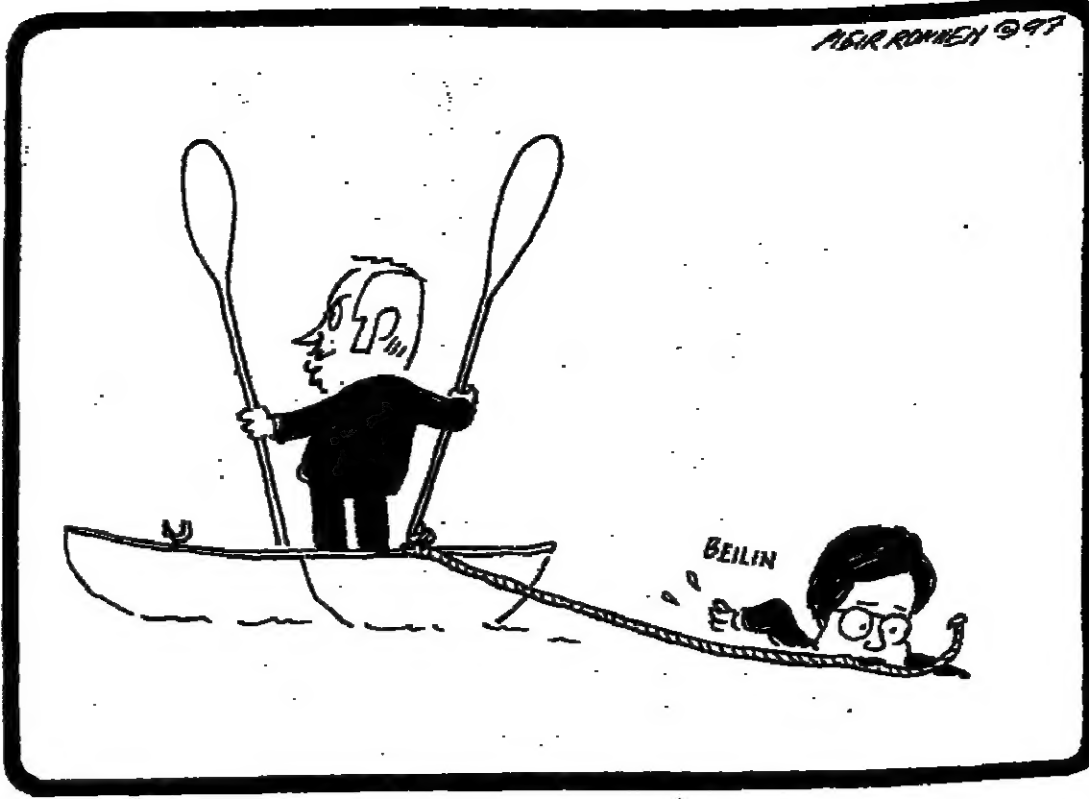
Peres and Barak know full well that, if anything, the specter of ethnic conflict made it less likely that Deri alone would be indicted. The very politicians who hang on Arbel and Rubinstein's every word when it comes to the alleged sins of Netanyahu are at the same time implying that their legal heroes are racists.

At a more fundamental level, Labor's fawning over Deri demonstrates that they are no less susceptible to the power of ethnic politics than the current government. Even in opposition, and even at the expense of legal authorities they respect and ethnic division they fear, Labor leaders, and Knesset members from other parties who have also signed the petition calling on Rubinstein to reassess his decision to pursue an indictment against Deri, cannot resist the urge to pander.

The claims that something is fishy about the attempt to indict Deri alone are inevitably prefaced by the disclaimer, "I'm not a legal expert, but ..." Hiding behind a veil of legal ignorance, however, does not absolve politicians from making distinctions about quality of evidence.

Rubinstein's report states that "... the line that distinguishes between MK Deri and the other participants in the episode is the matter of evidence." Deri may be unlucky in that the evidence against him is more solid than the evidence against the others, but there is no reason to believe he was discriminated against. That the main witness against Deri was his own disgruntled ex-lawyer is a legitimate reason to question the evidence against him. But if that evidence is too weak to indict Deri, then it is certainly too weak to indict the others, who are one or two layers removed from it.

Peres calls this evidentiary distinction between Netanyahu and Deri a "technical" one. Perhaps what he is trying to say is that the only difference between Netanyahu's guilt and Deri's is that the case against the former is harder to prove. Peres might be right, but then he and his colleagues had better stop treating Aryeh Deri as if he were an innocent victim of ethnic discrimination.



Boosting Arafat's ego

Only Micronesia joined the US in its vote against the anti-Israeli resolution at the UN General Assembly on Friday.

This vote – 134 in favor, three (including Israel) against the resolution condemning construction on Har Homa – does not reflect Israel's standing in the world. Nor is it a barometer of the friendly relations between Israel and the rest of the world. But it does illustrate Israel's underestimation of the weight which such resolutions carry. Had the Foreign Ministry tried, it probably would have succeeded in enlisting the support of a few more friendly countries. But the Foreign Ministry seems to see UN General Assembly resolutions as being only recommendations which are not binding.

On more than one occasion the General Assembly has appealed to its members to sever all economic, military and cultural ties with Israel; experience has shown that these resolutions have remained on paper alone.

Though the UN resolution should not cause us to panic, we should be wary of the Palestinian Authority, which instigated the resolution to impose sanctions on Israel. The raising of the proposal was an egregious contradiction of the Oslo Accords, both in letter and in spirit.

The agreement of principles of Oslo outlined the route to settling disputes between Israel and the PA: either through direct negotiations, or by appealing to the US and Russia, the sponsors who endorsed the agreement. The Palestinians have been ignoring this feature of the accords. They have appealed to the UN four times concerning Har Homa: twice to the Security Council (both occasions were met by an American veto), and twice to the General Assembly, where they

MOSHE ZAK

won support by a sweeping majority, but actually gained nothing in the way of practical ability to halt construction on Har Homa.

In their most recent appeal to the General Assembly, the Palestinians made their demands more extreme. They demanded the imposition of sanctions on Israel, which is tantamount to a declaration of war. Yet the PA

The UN vote against Har Homa has serious implications

enjoys monetary support from Israel. Furthermore, according to the Oslo Accords, the PA is committed to economic cooperation with Israel.

The refusal of the European Union countries to support the sanction clause of the Palestinian proposal led to its removal from the resolution, leaving a hidden remnant of the general intention to impose sanctions. This "hidden" message took the form of an appeal to the international business community to boycott companies aiding construction at Har Homa.

This is a foolish appeal, since no Japanese, French or German automobile company for example would prevent the sale of its products to Israel on the grounds that some of its vehicles are transporting building supplies to Har Homa.

THIS resolution has no immediate practical significance, but can establish ground rules for subse-

quent debates, after the UN secretary-general presents his report – in two months' time – on the degree to which the resolution to halt construction on Har Homa has been implemented. The ramifications of anti-Israel resolutions do not lie in the realm of economics but provide leverage to heighten Arab hatred for Israel. They serve to fan the flames of terrorism and violence.

The escalation of anti-Israel resolutions at the UN (and at the conference of non-aligned nations, and the pan-Islamic conference) creates an atmosphere of non-cooperation in the field of security and intelligence between the security services of Israel and the PA. And without cooperation in fighting terrorism, it will be very difficult to renew political negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

The pro-Palestinian declarations at the UN and in other international forums inflate Arafat's ego by planting the illusion in his mind that, through the power of such resolutions, he will be able to twist Israel's arm.

Such illusions increase tension in the region and push all of us further and further away from serious negotiations toward an Israeli-Palestinian arrangement. To get the 134 countries which voted against Israel at the General Assembly to understand that they are unintentionally working against the peace process, Israel must make it clear to the entire world that there will be no negotiations with the Palestinians as long as they try to organize an economic war against Israel, just as there will be no negotiations under conditions of terrorism.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

Paradox in Peru

MICHAEL SHIFTER

Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori is triumphant. The recent rescue operation ending the four-month hostage siege at the Japanese ambassador's Lima residence was, by most accounts, a great success. Most Peruvians are relieved, if not jubilant.

Fujimori needed the boost. Peruvians were unhappy not only with the prolonged standoff, but with the country's persistent social problems. Despite increasing foreign investment and positive, although declining, growth rates, unemployment and poverty rates remain stubbornly high.

The country's political and human-rights situation also had been deteriorating. Revelations of violent attacks against political opponents – and an especially gruesome killing resulting from internecine conflicts among intelligence services – made many Peruvians uneasy, including previous Fujimori backers. The political crisis eventually sparked the resignations of Peru's interior minister and national police chief. Fujimori's luck and daring have, for the moment, partly cleared the air of these troubling elements. But his triumphalism may be deceptive, ephemeral, even perilous.

The military operation instills pride and yet, paradoxically, the success of the raid may make dealing with ongoing problems even more difficult.

The outcome of the rescue operation may fortify hardliners in the military who wanted to use force from the outset of the siege. In a country where political parties are a shambles, the Congress is ineffectual, the judiciary is politically controlled and one of the president's main pillars of support is the armed forces, such a prospect is troubling.

Although human-rights violations have decreased in the past

The commandos' success in ending the hostage crisis may encourage military hardliners

several years, the armed forces have a history of violating the basic constitutional guarantees of Peruvian citizens, targeting opposition figures, in particular. Because it was force that ended the hostage crisis, peaceful means to resolve problems now may be given less attention. This explains why Peruvians who so fervently hoped for a negotiated end to the crisis are somewhat demoralized.

THE stubbornness and irresponsibility of Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, the Tupac Amaru guerrilla leader, certainly contributed to this irony. After scoring a major propaganda coup, even displaying the same efficiency and boldness that characterized the rescue raid when his band seized the ambassador's residence last December, the former union leader clung to his unrealistic demand of freedom for 400 Tupac Amaru revolutionaries in Peru's prisons.

He also, unpardonably and tragically, led some 11 Tupac Amaru teenage recruits, boys and girls from the Peruvian jungle, on his deadly course. Although the now crippled Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement had contacts with Cuba in the 1980s, and asylum to that country had been arranged for these youngsters, Fidel Castro meant absolutely nothing to them. In the end, Cerpa squandered everything – and ultimately helped bolster the authoritarian forces he was presumably fighting against.

Other countries will continue to analyze last week's commando raid in Lima. Lessons will be drawn about the best way to deal with terrorist acts. Yet, while it may be instructive to study such an efficient, well-executed operation, it is crucial to put the assault within a broader political perspective – and to fathom the full implications of bolstering the strong armed forces within a system nearly devoid of institutional checks.

Even before the rescue, Fujimori had set his sights on his re-election to a third term in 2000. The Peruvian president manifestly enjoys power, and wields it astutely. Yet two weeks ago Fujimori's popularity was at 38 percent – and falling.

He now has the opportunity to pay serious attention to Peru's underlying social and institutional problems. The country's increasingly sullied political and security situation needs to be rectified – and the rule of law respected. That really would give Peruvians something to cheer about.

(Los Angeles Times)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DISMAL APOLOGETICS

Sir, – The timing of Allan E. Shapiro's dismal apologetics ("The Sins of the Fathers," April 11) could not have been worse. Shapiro weeps for the family of Moussa Ranimat, the Apropo terrorist, who will lose its home because of his deeds. He suggests that Ranimat and his family were apologetic and deeply in debt. He adds that the motive for his act may have been financial, an act of desperation to provide his family with adequate housing from compensation through the terrorist infrastructure.

The day the article appeared was the day that the police revealed that Ranimat was not a suicide bomber at all, but the victim of a "work accident." Another member of the gang was waiting to help him escape after the bomb was placed. Apologetic? Ranimat was a member of a Hamas gang responsible for the murder of at least 11 Jews, leaving a host of bereaved parents, orphans and widows.

The quote from Ezekiel that appeared above the article was not complete. Only in the article was it made clear that the prophet meant that children should not die for the sins of their fathers. The prophet did not depart from the Torah, which stated that children should not be put to death for the sins of their fathers. It is an unrealistic judicial liberty to claim that children should not suffer any deprivation at all because of the misdeeds of fathers, and we are pleased that a majority of the Supreme Court did not agree with this interpretation.

Any man contemplating immoral or criminal behavior knows full well that his family will suffer if he is caught. Society will stigmatize, penalize and deprive his wife and children. The Torah and Jewish law constantly use this concept to deter men from sin. Shapiro's concern for the welfare of the murderer's family apparently exceeds his concern for the three innocent families of the victims of the bombing, who will suffer their loss for the rest of their lives.

RABBI SHLOMO WEXLER

Jerusalem.

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

Sir, – The discovery of IDF soldier Sharon Edri's body brings to a close a period of unspeakable agony for his family. Almost forgotten, however, is the role of the Israel Police – and most particularly that of former Police Department Jerusalem District Commander Aryeh Amit – in slandering and besmirching Sharon Edri over the last seven months. Clear evidence was available that Edri had been kidnapped and possibly killed by Palestinian terrorists. This evidence included a phone call, one week after his disappearance, to the Red Crescent Society in Gaza, in which a caller claiming to represent the Hamas Izzadin al-Kassam terror group declared that the group had kidnapped and killed Edri.

In spite of this, Amit chose instead to declare repeatedly that Edri was missing for "personal reasons" (with insinuations that Edri was hiding from the army), and that he was unwilling to be found. No matter that Amit had absolutely no evidence to back up this incredible theory, and no matter the horrible torment he was inflicting upon Edri's already anguished family.

Sir, – After 12 months of deliberation by four high-level government committees on the problem of foreign labor in the construction and agricultural industries, the decision has finally been announced. With great pride, the Israeli public is informed that foreign labor will be expelled and Arab laborers will once again be returned to our cities and even be allowed to remain overnight. This is truly astounding, since the entire reason for bringing in the foreign workers in the first place was to stop the terrorist attacks, bombings and murders that came along with the Arab workers.

What is more incredible is that the Ministry of Labor, which is charged with the entire issue of ensuring that there is a sufficient labor force to meet the needs of the construction industry, stubbornly refuses to train Jewish workers to

take over the building of our own land. In fact, the American building trades unions of the AFL-CIO have offered many times, during the past three years, to bring their apprenticeship craftworker training programs to Israel, at no charge. The training is at the most advanced standards of the work in the world, resulting in workers who produce high-quality work very quickly. The only explanation offered by a government spokesman as to why this program has not been implemented is that we need to use the Arab workers as a "whip" against Arafat.

When the next bomb goes off in our cities, what excuse will be offered to those killed and injured?

IRA BRAVERMAN

(Registered Construction Engineer)

Jerusalem.

FOREIGN LABOR

It is worth noting that this is not the first time that the Israel Police have engaged in this sort of slander against a missing IDF soldier: After David Manos disappeared in 1984, the police also declared that Manos was missing of his own volition. They repeated incessantly – without evidence – that he was alive, mentally unstable and involved in drugs and prostitution. Eighteen months after his disappearance, in March 1986, the IDF arrested a group of terrorists who admitted to kidnapping and killing Manos, and who led the IDF to his remains. To this day, Manos's mother, Grazia, speaks of the year and a half of "living hell" which the police inflicted upon her.

The police were not held accountable for their reprehensible behavior in the Manos case, so it should come as no surprise that they repeated themselves in the case of Sharon Edri. If we do not demand an accounting today, they will undoubtedly repeat themselves again.

MOSHE Z. MATITYA

Jerusalem.

Hanegbi vs. Begin

AMIEL UNGAR

ideological steadfastness, quite the contrary. Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo, once dubbed Roni Biryoni ("Roni the ruffian") by the Left, now tries to out-Meret Metetz MK Michael Eitan telescoped his migration from nationalist firebrand to Yossi Beilin's buddy in one year; and Hanegbi, who once Rivlin out of the Likud for lack of

The PM must strike a balance between power and principles

ideological fervor recently crowed that he had become a moderate compared to Rivlin. To display his newfound moderation, Hanegbi had effusive words of praise for the architects of Oslo.

IN THE end it is safer to trust the political gentleman over the political grandstander.

Ze'ev Begin, now celebrated by the media as the one cabinet member with the tenacity to quit the government (although the media conveniently forgets that Begin's resignation was in protest over the Hebron agreement) takes gentlemanly behavior too far. In reiterating his continued lack of confidence in Netanyahu, Begin offered an unsolicited and undeserved testimonial to Channel 1.

Begin should tax his commendable memory and review his own dealings with the media. After Begin exposed the secret understandings which Shimon Peres had concealed from the public, did he encounter an iota of the righteous indignation expressed in the media over the Bar-On Affair?

The story fizzled out after two days because the "peace process" enjoyed precedence over government probity. How much sym-

thy did Begin encounter in the media for his now proven contention that the Palestinian National Covenant remained in force? Begin presently enjoys far greater media deference when he assails Netanyahu than he ever encountered when exposing Oslo.

By uncritically allying himself with Netanyahu's enemies on the Left, Begin reverts to his holier-than-thou vendettas against Yitzhak Moda'i and Ariel Sharon. Then as well the media toasted Begin for his integrity, but the real celebration centered around the self-inflicted wounds sustained by the Likud.

Fortunately a sane middle position (embraced by two-thirds of the public) exists. It concedes that Netanyahu made mistakes which must be rectified, but rejects the opportunistic, a la carte morality of the Left. An increasing number of cabinet members are rallying to this position.

Both National Religious Party ministers refused to endorse Bar-On on the original vote but were equally disinclined to join the leftist lynch party. Zevulun Hammer countered calls for a special investigation of the affair by insisting that he would support such a committee only if its terms of reference embraced Labor's flagrant improprieties.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat was also sharply critical of the Bar-On appointment, but this did not betray her perception that the media was essentially biased. Natan Sharansky will stick with Netanyahu but expects to see Hanegbi moved out of the Justice Ministry.

Supporters of the government must exert their influence to ensure that there is no return to business as usual. They must be equally vigilant in defending the government against those for whom principle has always taken a back seat to political power.

The writer teaches political science at Judea & Samaria College in Ariel.

GRAPEVINE

Defense minister goes dancing

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

For most political figures, participation in Sabarane and Mimouna festivities is a matter of *noblesse oblige*. Not so in the case of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who not only pumps fish and parades of the food, but also joins with gusto in the singing



Labor MK Rafi Eini hosted a multi-party Mimouna

and dancing, as evidenced this week in both Sabarane and Mimouna get-togethers.

AND TALKING of the Mimouna, ethnic roots, it seems, have a stronger pull than political ideology — which explains why Labor MK Rafi Eini crossed the lines to join the Likud-Gesher coalition which included MKs Meir Sheerit, Shaul Amos, Maxine Levy and Yehuda Lankri for Channel 33's Mimouna program. Eini also hosted people from all shades of the political rainbow at the huge Mimouna celebrations which he and his Ashkenazi wife Ofra hosted in their home in Maccabim Batya.

GOVERNMENT ministers, Knesset members, diplomats and other dignitaries had a long night on Monday as they traveled the Mimouna trail all over the country. Foreign Minister David Levy was less mobile than his colleagues since he and his wife Rabel had their own Mimouna fling in Beit She'an. While President Ezer Weizman made no secret of his enjoyment of nouilles — the traditional Moroccan pancakes — at Mimouna festivities in Or Akiva, Labor Leader Shimon Peres begged off at Jerusalem's elegant Moroccan Dima restaurant, pleading that Ashkenazi couldn't absorb that many calories. But Peres couldn't refuse political activist Esther Biton, at whose home he is an annual Mimouna guest.

Ehud Barak, who is all set to wrest the Labor leadership from Peres in June, sat next to him at Biton's crowded Jerusalem apartment in the capital's Gilo neighborhood where he had plenty to smile about since MK Dalia Itzik — one of Peres' most passionate and vocal supporters — announced that



Nicolas Cage: Superman

she had joined the Barak camp. Barak also attended the major Mimouna festivities in Ashdod where he greeted Binayamin Netanyahu, who like Peres, was counting his calories.

ANYONE LOOKING for a long-lasting job should try being military censor. Current incumbent Yitzhak Shani is about to retire after 20 years at the post. His predecessor, Avner Bar-On, had even longer staying power and held the office for 25 years.

SOME of the returning guests at the Tel Aviv Hilton have been coming back every year since the hotel was first opened more than 30 years ago. Many of them make a point of being here for Pessah, and their presence has created a tradition whereby the hotel's general manager has hosted a seasonal reception for them and local celebrities. The 32nd such annual event was hosted by current GM, Oded Lifshitz, who is also Hilton International Director for Israel. Among the celebrities present was singer Yaffa Yarkoni, whose many tours throughout the world have made her familiar to the hotel's guests in their own countries as well as in Israel.

THE 40th birthday last week of legendary soccer star Uri Malmilian did not create nearly as much furor in Israel as did the 50th birthday the following day of Dutch soccer huminary Johan Cruyff. Malmilian, though fit and spry in every other respect, was forced by a

knee injury to hang up his boots a couple of years back. Until a little over 13 months ago when he married law student Sigal Elimelech, Malmilian was regarded as one of Jerusalem's most eligible bachelors. The couple now have a seven-and-a-half month-old daughter, Maya, and Malmilian's goals these days are in marketing and advertising.



UP, UP and away! The next star scheduled to get into Superman's red-caped blue suit is Nicolas Cage, whose girl friend Lois Lane will be played by Sandra Bullock.

ALTHOUGH HE will not present his credentials to President Weizman till May 8, Australia's new ambassador, Ian Wilcock, who arrived here just over a week ago, has already presided over one major Australian event — the annual ANZAC Day Ceremony which commemorates the ill-fated landing of Australian and New Zealand forces in Gallipoli during World War I. Wilcock is no stranger to Israel. He served here as third secretary from 1973 to 1975 and looks forward to renewing acquaintance with old friends.

WHILE HIS father, former Sephardi Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, is the spiritual mentor of Shas, Rabbi David Yosef, 39, who heads the nationwide support network for beleaguered Shas leader Aryeh Deri, is the true string-puller of the party. The articulate, hot-tempered, younger Yosef, who is the ninth of his father's 11 children, would have liked to have been a minister in the current government, but was deterred by Deri, his former classmate at Hebron Yeshiva, who in a stimulation game pointed out that his temperament was not conducive to the job. Yosef now has his sights set on becoming the Sephardi chief rabbi of Jerusalem, a desire which will surely test the loyalties of his old friend, who will have to decide whether to support him or his chief rival Rabbi Yehuda Deri, who happens to be Aryeh Deri's brother.

HOW MUCH should some old love letters fetch on the auction block? Well, it all depends on whose love letters they are. Sotheby's are optimistic that 253 letters and postcards written by Israel's first president,



Sandra Bullock: Lois Lane

Chaim Weizmann, to medical student Sophie Guezzoff, whom he met a century ago in Bern, Switzerland, when both were 23, would fetch a pretty price. Weizmann and Sophie were engaged to be married, but when he fell in love with Vera Katzman, another medical student whom he met in 1900, he didn't have the courage to tell Sophie and kept up a correspondence with her until shortly before his marriage. The distraught Sophie, who remained a spinster, came to Jerusalem in 1925 and two years later was appointed a professor at the Hebrew University. She died in 1946.

UP, UP and away! The next star scheduled to get into Superman's red-caped blue suit is Nicolas Cage, whose girl friend Lois Lane will be played by Sandra Bullock.

GOOD THINGS are happening in the McCartney family. Earlier this year, former Beatle, papa Paul was knighted, and now Stella McCartney, 25, has taken over from Karl Lagerfeld as chief designer for the prestigious French fashion house Chloé. Stella joins fellow Brits John Galiano and Alexander McQueen, who have been appointed as chief designers at Dior and Givenchy, respectively. But not all the relatively new trendsetters in Paris are British. Israel is also represented in the person of Shenkar College graduate Albert Elbaz, 35, who seven months ago was appointed creative director and head designer at Gny Laroche.

Ice baths for Afghan hash-smokers

By GRETCHEN PETERS

The Taliban religious army, known for its strict interpretation of Islamic law and its stiff punishments for those who break it, has established a three-step program for hashish smokers. First, beat them until they confess who their dealer is. Second, give them an automatic jail term. And third, dunk them in an ice-water bath for three excruciating hours a day until their habit is broken.

In a country where hashish use has long been epidemic, with young men smoking up to 20 drug-laced cigarettes a day, the approach is remarkably effective.

Market sellers in Kandahar, the southern city where the Taliban movement began nearly three years ago, said they no longer sell the cannabis-based drug.

One convicted user said he had completely sworn off the stuff. "When they put me in that cold water, I forgot all about hashish," said Bakht Mohammed.

The Taliban's tough approach has some international organizations wondering why it has not mounted an equally enthusiastic

campaign against the production of opium, which is used to make the heroin sold in Western nations.

The Taliban controls southern Afghanistan, where most of the country's 2,100 tonnes of opium is produced each year. According to the UN Drug Control program, Afghanistan now rivals Burma as the world's largest opium producer.

Sitting in his dark shoe-box of an office, Abdul Rashid, who heads the anti-drug effort in Kandahar, says he lacks the resources to take on the opium trade. The Taliban administration has given him 10 men and a single rusty motorbike to chase smugglers along the bumpy, dirt roads.

The smugglers they do catch generally get one year in jail and have their goods confiscated.

Rashid also fears trouble from farmers, if anyone tries to ban cultivation of the blood-red poppy that opium comes from. "We should not forget about the people — if they need money it is unfair to stop them from growing it," he said.

Poppies sell for five times the price of other crops, including wheat, cucumbers and grapes. What's more, local traders pay in

advance, giving impoverished farmers much-needed cash to buy seeds and fertilizer.

One poppy farmer, Wali Jan, said he earns the equivalent of \$1,300 a year from his crop — a huge sum in a country where a lawyer might make \$100 a year. With 14 months to feed in his family, Jan calls it a matter of survival.

"How can I feed them otherwise?" he said.

When the Taliban took control of the area nearly three years ago, some foreign governments hoped their strict version of Islamic life would prompt them to outlaw poppy production.

Instead, the trade in opium, which unlike hashish is an item for export to the West rather than local consumption, has flourished.

The farmers say the local mullahs, or clerics, who administer the area, have not told them to stop growing poppies, and some even charge them the 10 percent tax levied for agricultural products.

With its well-known talent for inspiring fear of punishment, the Taliban would only have to ban poppy cultivation for it to stop, farmers say.

PARENTING

Not now! I'm on the phone

By RUTH MASON

How can I stop my kids from interrupting me when I'm on the phone? It happens even with my 11-year-old, who really should know better.

Esti Cohen, parenting group leader and supervisor of parenting group leaders, responds:

There are many reasons why a child may interrupt a parent when he or she is on the phone.

Let's look at this from a moment from the child's perspective. Young children have an expectation that their parents will be available when they need them. Parents are a source of support, information and strength. When our children need those things, they come to us.

Say your children are at home, busy with their own activities. You decide to use the time to make a couple of calls. Meanwhile, your daughter, who is doing her homework, comes across a word she doesn't understand. She asks you what the word means. But you're on the phone. There are several ways in which she can respond. She can wait, she can keep nudging you or she can bother her younger brother so he'll scream and cry and get your attention away from the phone.

Perhaps you can raise the chances of her choosing the first option by the way you respond when she interrupts. Few of us can calmly say, "Sweetheart, I understand that you need me. When I finish talking, I'll be available." Instead, we tend to say, "I'm on the phone now, don't bother me!" We feel pressured because we're needed in two places at once. But it's helpful to realize that we don't have to answer both needs simultaneously. We are



Your child's phone conversation is no less important than your own. (Israel Talley)

free to decide our priorities.

A ringing phone can also have additional associations for a child. Say a mother is playing with her 18-month-old daughter. Then the phone rings. The mother answers it and is told that a friend was in an accident.

The child, of course, doesn't understand what happened. She only knows that there was a ringing sound that took her mother away and when she came back, she was not the same person. The child comes to associate the ringing of a telephone with something negative. So in the future when she is playing with her mother and the phone rings, she may go and interrupt her because she won't want the same thing to happen.

Another reason your child interrupts you on the phone might be that he feels left out.

Most of us, children and adults, don't know how to express such

feelings directly. So the feelings come out as interruptions. If you're making love with your husband and the phone rings, you probably won't answer it. If a friend is visiting and you're talking, you most likely won't engage in a long telephone conversation in her presence.

Similarly, when you're reading a story to your four-year-old and someone tells you you have a call, you can say, "I can't talk right now. I'm reading a story to Ben." This also signals your child that you feel what you are doing together is important.

I SUGGEST that you convene a family meeting to establish some agreed-upon rules about telephone use in the house.

Phone interaction should be governed by respect and mutuality. Attach the same importance to your child's phone conversation with his friend that you do to your phone conversation with your friend. Realize that to a child, his conversation with a friend about an upcoming party is as important as your conversation with the bank about your overdraft.

Give your children information. "I have to make an important call now. I'll be on the phone for about 20 minutes. Please don't interrupt."

Decide what times of day — such as when you're helping with homework or putting the children to bed — you won't use the phone. I can understand that you might feel that you should be able to do whatever you want in your own house. But it is also your children's house. Considering their needs and feelings around telephone use will model for them the behavior you want to see in your children.

Not Page One

When Filipinos take off their aprons

By Sam Orbaum

"Yes, ma'am." "Right away, sir." "Thank you, ma'am." Filipino civility may never catch on with the rest of us in this brusque society; their good-natured servility even less likely. Humility with dignity, forget it.

They come here to wait on us because earnings can be as high as 25 times what they make in the Philippines. After three years of earning what by our standards are paltry wages, a domestic worker can go back and build a home sturdy enough to withstand earthquakes and typhoons.

Six days a week they work for us, cleaning, cooking, shopping, nursing. Then finally — Saturday night.

Yeeeee-haaa!

Every Saturday night, the country's many thousands of Filipinos break loose, let their hair down and shed their demure subservience. But they are Filipino to the last drop: you won't see unruly gangs of them roaming around drunk. Going wild means taking refuge in one of the secret sanctuaries they have set up for themselves, where they can go on their day off and — egads! — put their feet up if they want to.

Here they are a tethered people set free — but you'd hardly know it. Sure, they lose themselves: napping on a couch, dressing casually, chatting in Tagalog, debating politics. Even here they cook and clean and nurse — but for each other.

"I'll tell you the truth," said one Filipino with a laugh that seems to be a national trait. "You think we all come here to sleep on our day off. You understand, we are tired. We work very hard" — a young woman mimics washing a floor, to gales of mirth — "but we are too excited to sleep. Instead, we talk, yack-yack, all night long."

Sometimes we go back to our employers just to get some sleep. More giggles.

At this particular haven on Mazeh Street in Tel Aviv, 18 Filipinos (who are all here legally), share the cost of a rundown apartment, at \$750 a month, even though they use it but once a week. The place is furnished like a college dorm, and the 18 renters — plus perhaps as many Filipino friends and guests — flow in and out all evening. Sometimes they pop down to a disco, but mostly, they plop down on a couch and shmooze.

They reveal "discretions" of their employment: where they get their diapers cheap, a recipe, how the old man's rash is doing.

"We care about each other, and about each other's employers. Sometimes we have helpful advice." Spouses who both found work in Israel meet here once a week, as do some parents and their adult children. But for most, who leave their families behind

for years at a time, these communal confabs are an outlet for moral support. One woman, who had to abandon her children aged 16, 14 and 10 to make money, was about to go home for the first time in two years.

"We ache for our children, but what can we do? This is our only chance to send them to a good school, to give them a home." Filipino domestics earn \$500 a month here. A well-paid teacher in the Philippines can pull in \$250 a month; shop clerks \$130. That's in the cities; in outlying areas, far less: one woman earned \$20 a month as a cashier. And sometimes, they might have to spend four hours a day in transit to and from work.

"We have it good here. We are very happy in Israel," said one middle-aged man. (No one wanted their identities revealed, out of consideration for their employers.)

"I've worked in Saudi Arabia, in Singapore, as a merchant marine, and after three years here I can say it is one of the best countries in the world for Filipino workers." Elsewhere they may be treated harshly, raped or cheated of their wages; pay is often poorer, and conditions slave-like. "In some places, you might only get a five-hour break once a month."

Someone comes by with a mischievous look on her face. "Look at this poor woman's hands. Feel them. They used to be soft. You know why they feel so rough now?" "Work?" "No. It's from counting all the money she makes." Everyone cracks up.

The apartment's busiest room is the kitchen. They don't order out for pizza: Everybody's walking in and out with bowls of Filipino-style soup and chicken and rice.

"We eat, we sleep, we talk. We talk about life. Children. The Philippines. Our work. Our dreams. Sometimes we cry. Sometimes we cry a lot. But we're happy here." There is no jealousy, no tension, no grappling for hierarchical domination, no undercurrents of disharmony. There is complete solidarity, in these rooms and among Filipinos throughout the country.

"We watch out for each other," said one man earnestly, and everyone else nodded. "And if someone is not good, with the rest of us or with the employer, we put pressure. We are proud of our reputation here. There are not many like that, but we tell them they should go back to the Philippines." The luckier ones land jobs with diplomats and foreign journalists; the unluckier, with invalids, the terminally ill and young families in stress.

I ask if anyone would like to work for Sara Netanyahu. The response is unanimous and emphatic: "No!" And of course, everyone giggles.

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BUSINESS

in brief

Property tax reform plan to be submitted today

The Gabbai committee on reforming property tax is expected this morning to recommend its abolition and replacement by a 2.5 percent business sales tax. The committee's proposals will be formally handed over to deputy finance minister David Magen during a press conference at the Treasury. The change would mean the replacement of the annual tax with a tax for purchasing business property. The Income Tax Commission is expected to object to the abolition, as property tax brings hundreds of millions of shekels into the Treasury each year. *David Harris*

Company fined for illegal software usage

A company which supplies computer services for the Supreme Court has been fined NIS 60,000 for its "illegal use" of Microsoft software. The Igud Haya'al company was taken to the Tel Aviv District Court by the software giant, and the fine was set as a result of a compromise between the two sides.

A Microsoft-Israel lawyer, Ma'ayan Bar, asked the court for restraining orders and a search and seizure warrant. It was then able to have documents and other evidence removed to support Microsoft's case that the company had used pirated software. According to Microsoft, illegal copying of programs is still very common in Israel, with three out of four programs pirated. This is a very high rate, compared to 27 percent in the US, 49% in Western Europe and 86% in Eastern Europe. The company added that many firms seem unaware of the fact that they may not allow multiple users to use software without paying for it. *Judy Siegel*

Industrialists seek visit to Malaysia

The Manufacturers Association has formally requested that the Malaysian government allow a delegation of Israeli businessmen to visit the country. Trade has continued with the Muslim country in recent years via third countries, but recently there have been signs that Kuala Lumpur is preparing for direct business ties. The association said there is room for considerable activity, particularly in agriculture, electronics, water, communications and medical supplies. *David Harris*

Chief China planner arrives today

Chinese State Planning Commission chairman Chen Jinhua is expected to arrive here today for an official eight-day visit. The commission has no equivalent here and is defined by Beijing as a super-ministry, combining some of the functions of Israel's Treasury and National Infrastructure Ministry. The commission oversees major development projects, economic reforms and decentralization. Accompanied by seven other officials, he will meet Finance Minister Dan Meridor and visit the Dead Sea Works, ECI Telecom, Elscint and several other high-profile companies. *David Harris*

Daily Beersheba - Tel Aviv rail line starts tomorrow

After a delay of several weeks, a daily Beersheba - Tel Aviv railroad service will begin operating tomorrow. The journey to Tel Aviv will depart Beersheba at 7:09 a.m., with the return setting off at 6:02 p.m. In addition, the existing service on Sundays and Thursdays, targeting students and soldiers, will continue to run. *David Harris*

Israel to participate in desert fighting forum

Israel will be participating in the Asian anti-desertification conference being held in Beijing from May 15-18. Agriculture Ministry spokesman Naphtali Yaniv confirmed yesterday. Israel's attendance was in considerable doubt following objections from several nations, lead by Arab states. Now Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, who will head the delegation, is calling on those taking part not to use the conference as an opportunity to attack Israel.

Israel is one of the world's leading authorities on the issue. Hosts China, together with others such as India, are keen for it to play a leading role at the event. *David Harris*

Trade Ministry D-G: Gov't must debate NIS1b. cut

By DAVID HARRIS

The government must stage an all-embracing debate on Israel's macroeconomy before the Finance Ministry formally proposes a NIS 1 billion cut in public spending, new Industry and Trade Ministry director-general Dov Mishor told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

While the debate on the growing budget deficit has been temporarily put on ice, for reasons that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's economics adviser Moshe Leon refused to discuss, Mishor has taken the opportunity to request such a debate after this month's various economic indicators are published. This would be

repeated after every four months.

Mishor said the fact that he and Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky were not included in the recent top-level talks on the budget deficit is not an issue. "I am just saying that with all due respect, this is not the right sequence of events."

It has become apparent in recent days that Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel may not take part in any further negotiations on a budget cut. At each of the three recent meetings he attended with Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor, he made it clear he will not be party to any economic package in which he reduces the central bank's key lending rate

simultaneous to a budget cut.

It is now felt that his involvement in further discussions is unnecessary, and Meridor will have to make a one-sided attack on the deficit.

"He is always invited to such debates, though," Leon said yesterday.

Having failed to obtain Frenkel's agreement to an interest rate cut, Meridor told the governor and prime minister he would have to use whatever means available to bring the deficit back in line with the government-set target of 2.8 percent of gross domestic product.

Current Treasury estimates suggest, on the basis of the first quarter, the deficit will reach 3.3% of

GDP by the year's end. However, some economists are talking of the eventual 1997 deficit totalling 3.5% of GDP.

One of Mishor's major concerns is that a cut in the state budget, or any other key decision that may be made, must take into account other economic factors, particularly the current rise in unemployment.

"There are already indications there could be another jump in unemployment toward the end of the year," he said. "Professional officers from all the relevant ministries must prepare papers for a ministerial debate, and only after the subsequent debate should it be decided which steps must be taken."

7 digits for Cellcom phone numbers

By JUDY SIEGEL

Two years after its entry into the cellular phone market, Cellcom's dialing numbers will expand to seven digits starting tomorrow, deputy president for marketing Oran Most said yesterday.

However, callers won't feel the change unless they're calling from one Cellcom device to another. Until now, Cellcom users calling another subscriber dialed only the recipient party's six-digit number; from tomorrow they will dial a seven-digit number beginning with the digit 2.

For other calls, one dialed 052-xxxxxx to call a Cellcom subscriber; as of tomorrow, the prefix is shortened to 05, followed by 2xxxxxx. Theoretically, there are 999,999 six-digit numbers available, but since none can begin with a 0 or 1, only 777,777 numbers were available. Since Cellcom has already subscribed a total of 650,000 customers, it had to expand to seven digits.

Besides expanding the capacity, the new system will allow Cellcom to vary and expand its intelligent network services, Most added. Over the next two weeks, either the six- or seven-digit numbers may be used; after that, those using the six-digit number will hear a recorded message explaining the change.

Meanwhile, Cellcom competitor Pelephone - which claims to have 675,000 subscribers - has not yet announced a changeover to seven digits. This may be more complicated, as its dialing code is 050, and numbers may not start with 0.

Greece vetoes EU aid for Turkey

By JEREMY GAUNT

LUXEMBOURG (Reuters) - Greece maintained its long-standing veto on a European Union aid package to Turkey yesterday, dashing hopes in other EU states that Athens had had a change of heart.

EU ministers, however, were still planning to meet Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller and hold talks that have been put off since 1995.

Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos said his country would participate in the meeting, but it could not agree to unblock aid worth 375 million euros (\$424 million) until Turkey stopped threatening Greek sovereignty in the Aegean. He said Turkey has to "withdraw the threat of war" over Greek plans to extend its maritime borders and must turn to international law to solve disputes in the region. Greece and Turkey nearly came to war over a deserted islet in the Aegean Sea last year.

EU officials had earlier expressed hope that Greece was about to change its mind about the aid, which has been blocked since 1996.

The aid package had been promised to Ankara to help it meet the increased competition posed by the customs union, which entered into force with the EU in January 1996. Without the aid, Turkey says it has felt little benefit from the deal. EU-Turkish ties were strained further earlier this year when mainly Christian Democratic politicians ruled out future Turkish membership of the EU because of cultural differences.

The bloc's foreign ministers later patched up the row by saying Turkey had a future in Europe.



Demonstrators protest privatization of Brazilian mining company

A man draped in a Brazilian flag urges protesters to stop throwing rocks and bottles at riot police outside the bourse in Rio de Janeiro yesterday during the auction of mining giant Companhia do Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD). The auction is Latin America's largest ever privatization. CVRD's Carajas mine, located deep in the Amazon rain forest, holds the world's largest iron ore deposit and considerable amounts of copper, gold, and manganese. Dozens were injured during the clashes. (Reuters)

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NO TELEPHONE SUBMISSIONS

Leumi to launch European road show

By ORNA RAVIV

Bank Leumi CEO Eitan Raff, general manager Galia Maor, MI Holdings general manager Meir Jacobson and a group of their aides will embark next week on a road show for the planned issue of Bank Leumi shares to European institutions.

According to the plan, MI Holdings - the state company which administers the sale of government shares in the banks - will

issue 10 percent of the bank's shares for immediate and deferred raising of capital through some \$240 million of options.

The shares will ultimately be registered for trading on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The issue is planned to take place in the last week of May.

MI Holdings estimates it is feasible to raise 75% of the planned issue proceeds through European investors.

If these estimates are realized, MI would consider expanding the issue to 15% of the bank's shares, which would hopefully translate into \$360m. in raised capital. *Globes*

Elbit, Dutch Army in \$28 million artillery deal

By STEVE RODAN

Elbit Systems Ltd. has signed a \$28 million contract to supply its artillery command and control systems to the Royal Netherlands Army, company executives said yesterday.

The contract was signed with Alcatel Telecom Nederland to supply Elbit's system for the Dutch army's VUUST-I project.

The contract will be executed over the next three years and marks the first sale of such a system to a NATO country.

Executives said Elbit, as the main subcontractor to Alcatel and a world leader in artillery command and control systems, will provide equipment supporting artillery guns and MLRS multiple launch rockets, as well as simulators.

Elbit will also supply software, as well as integration to equipment, such as radios and radars, already in use in the Dutch military.

The contract is a follow-on order to a \$3.5m. pilot project carried out by Alcatel and Elbit since 1992.

The pilot was chosen after an international competition.

The contract "signifies an important milestone" for Elbit Systems, as it reinforces cooperation with the Dutch military and industry, company president and CEO Joseph Ackerman said.

Elbit Systems anticipates that the program will enhance prospective ground and artillery command and control systems sales to additional NATO countries and other customers, he said.

London dealers: No repeat of '92 election buzz

By JENNIFER SCOTT

LONDON (Reuters) - Financial houses in the City of London plan to provide only skeleton cover in the early hours of Friday as the results of the British election roll in, analysts said yesterday.

The camp beds, takeaway pizzas and adrenaline that pumped through London's stock, bond and foreign exchange dealing rooms in the last two elections will be notably absent, said traders, as most city folk opt to stay home.

"Most people will be at home watching the results come in on TV," according to John Shepperd, the chief economist at Yamachi International. "In market terms, it's

a bit of a non-event."

Opinion polls which showed the Labor and Conservative parties neck-in-neck in the 1992 election had trading rooms braced for a busy night. A surprise victory for the Conservatives sent markets into a spin.

Gilt rose around three points, sterling rallied nearly three pence against the mark and the stock market closed more than five percent higher. The Bank of England even sold 1.5 billion sterling of gilts in the middle of the night, an unprecedented move.

But this time round, gilt traders are more likely to be tucked up in bed than around their dealing screens, although most do plan to

make an early start on Friday.

"There is the potential for some enormous last-minute surprises this time, but given the consistency of the polls, no one is expecting any stunnings on the night," Shepperd said. "People will be happy to go to bed and assess things in the morning."

Opinion polls have unfailingly predicted a win for the opposition Labor Party tomorrow.

Ian Amstad, senior economist at Bankers Trust here, said he was anticipating little overnight demand from clients for gilts.

"There won't be many people spinning the dice on this outcome," he said. "There may be an element of buy on the rumor, sell on the fact, so there may be some profit-taking in sterling assets... but we're not expecting any violent shenanigans."

Richard Hill, head of foreign exchange at Bank of America in London, said he did not expect the kind of hectic trading the market experienced in 1992.

"That's really only going to occur if it looks like a repeat," he said, referring to the Conservatives' unexpected victory.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.75	5.00	5.375	
Swiss franc (CHF 200,000)	3.675	4.00	4.25	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125	
Yen (10 million yen)	0.825	0.750	1.000	
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (29.4.97)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rates**
Currency basket	3.6462	3.7071	3.52	3.6785
U.S. dollar	3.3816	3.4362	3.32	3.4100
German mark	1.9823	1.9838	1.91	1.9890
Swiss franc	5.4989	5.5858	5.40	5.5827
French franc	0.5701	0.5855	0.56	0.5840
Japanese yen (100)	2.6689	2.7100	2.62	2.6918
Dutch florin	1.7354	1.7834	1.72	1.7503
Swiss franc	2.2837	2.3307	2.25	2.3142
Australian dollar	0.4305	0.4375	0.42	0.4340
S. African rand	0.4787	0.4844	0.46	0.4802
Norwegian krona	0.5128	0.5211	0.50	0.5188
Danish krone	0.8481	0.8588	0.83	0.8530
Canadian dollar	2.4138	2.4526	2.37	2.4330
Australian dollar	2.5391	2.5787	2.50	2.5688
Belgian franc (10)	0.7610	0.7733	0.69	0.7672
Austrian schilling (10)	0.9489	0.9712	0.92	0.9642
Italian lire (1000)	2.7742	2.8130	2.72	2.7982
Jordanian dinar	1.9884	2.0002	1.93	1.9890
Egyptian pound	4.7100	5.0300	4.71	4.8934
ECU	0.9800	1.0500	0.96	1.0571
Irish punt	3.8198	3.8732	3.72	3.8437
Spanish peseta (100)	5.2128	5.2589	5.12	5.2314
	2.3179	2.3553	2.27	2.3308
*These rates vary according to bank.				
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI				

הכרזת הקבל

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

By JUDY SIEGEL

After its entry into the phone market, Cellcom's numbers will expand to include the company's earnings for the first quarter of 1997. The company's earnings for the first quarter of 1997 were \$1.1 million, or 11 cents per share, compared with \$1.0 million, or 10 cents per share, for the first quarter of 1996. Cellcom's earnings for the first quarter of 1997 were \$1.1 million, or 11 cents per share, compared with \$1.0 million, or 10 cents per share, for the first quarter of 1996.

Greece vetoes EU aid for Turkey

By JEREMY GAUNT

ATHENS (Reuters) - Greece's long-standing veto of European Union aid to Turkey, which has been in place since 1995, was renewed today. The veto was renewed for a period of one year, until the end of 1998. The veto was renewed for a period of one year, until the end of 1998. The veto was renewed for a period of one year, until the end of 1998.

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

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Israel confident of victory against Cyprus despite team upheaval

By ORI LEWIS

Israel coach Shlomo Scharf yesterday threw five players out of his 20-man squad just 36 hours before the home World Cup qualifier against Cyprus in the National Stadium in Ramat Gan this evening (kickoff 18:00).

The five, include four first-choice players: dangerous midfielders Haim Revivo of Spanish first division side Celta Vigo and Avi Nimni of Maccabi Tel Aviv, left back Felix Halfon of Hapoel Tel Aviv and right back David Amsalem of league leaders Beitar Jerusalem.

The fifth is veteran former captain Nir Klinger, who holds the record number of caps with 83 international appearances.

Klinger decided to quit international soccer after he was ousted.

And with Tottenham's Ronnie Rosenthal also ruled out after picking up an injury during training on Monday evening, the Israel side will take on a drastic new look for the kickoff.

Scharf immediately drafted three new players into the squad, including Reuven Atar and Avishai Janno of Maccabi Haifa and Shai

Holtzman of Hapoel Beersheba, all have previous international experience.

"It was all just a big misunderstanding, but perhaps our mistake was that we did not inform the coach," Nimni told Israel Radio yesterday.

"We should have informed the coach of our movements," Klinger said yesterday. "This is very severe punishment, particularly on the younger players. As for me, I had already made up my mind to quit," Klinger said.

Scharf said he had been kind to Klinger. "He hasn't been in the best form lately, but I still put my faith in him," the coach told Israel Television.

"Let this be a lesson to all players in Israel, they have lost control of themselves and think too little of soccer and too much of other things," Scharf said.

"I feel betrayed by these players. After having discussed discipline with the team, they went and broke the rules," Scharf continued. "A national side must set an example for all other representative teams and behavior of this sort is unacceptable," the coach said.

Scharf's deputy, Yitzhak Shum, said that the action was absolutely necessary if all the hard work in building discipline was not to be wasted.

Scharf himself told the players that none of them was included in the squad for "decorative purposes" but also said that none was indispensable.

Cypriot coach Stavros Papadopoulos could not believe his ears, "this is all a media ploy to throw us off balance," he was reported as saying.

Israel's revised starting lineup now looks to be more attacking in nature - two strikers will be used - as Israel strive to ensure a win. Anything less will not be good enough to maintain their quest to qualify for the World Cup finals ahead of either Bulgaria or Russia in European Group 5.

The expected starting lineup is: Goalkeeper: Rafi Cohen, Defenders: Alon Harazi or Avishai Janno instead of Felix Halfon, Moshe Gluz instead of David Amsalem, Amir Shelah, Arif Bannado. Midfielders: Alon Hazan, Tal Benin (captain), Itzik Zohar, Eyal Berkowitz. Forwards:

Eli Ohana, Alon Mizrahi.

The decision to play both Ohana and Mizrahi, who has looked very sharp in his last appearances in the national blue and white colors could be the ace in Scharf's pack.

Israel are still smarting from the 2-0 defeat in Limassol last November. A match they were expected to win and one in which they played very badly.

There can be no such performance today if Israel are to continue their quest of qualification. A loss will end their hopes and could also effectively end Scharf's reign at the helm.

The Cypriots, on the other hand, have undergone a massive change since November.

They were rocked by a bribery scandal in their local game which forced the resignation of coach Andreas Michailidis.

The Cypriots arrived late on Monday and held a training session at Ramat Gan yesterday. Only four players from the starting lineup in the first game are expected to take the field at kickoff this evening.

Coach Papadopoulos looks as if he will start with Nikos Panayiotou in goal, George Theodorou,

Pambos Pittas, Anglos Missos, Marios Hlambos at the back, Neofitas Larkou, Nikolaus Timoteou, Nikos Papavasiliou and Costas Malakos in midfield and Sima Gogic and Yannis Ioannu up front.

Only 'keeper Panayiotou, Pittas, and forwards Gogic and Ioannu played in Limassol.

Gogic will have happy memories from that match, he scored both goals to sink Israel.

The revised Israel squad: Goalkeepers: Rafi Cohen (Hapoel Haifa), Itzik Kornit (Beitar Jerusalem).

Defenders: Asif Domb (Beitar Jerusalem), Avishai Janno (Maccabi Haifa), Amir Shelah (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Moshe Gluz (Maccabi Haifa), Alon Harazi (Maccabi Haifa), Arif Bannado (Maccabi Haifa).

Midfielders: Ran Ben-Shimon (Hapoel Haifa), Yossi Abusila (Beitar Jerusalem), Eyal Berkowitz (Southampton), Reuven Atar (Maccabi Haifa), Itzik Zohar (Beitar Jerusalem), Alon Hazan (Maccabi Haifa), Shai Holtzman (Hapoel Beersheba), Tal Benin (Hapoel Haifa, captain).

Forwards: Eli Ohana (Beitar Jerusalem), Alon Mizrahi (Beitar Jerusalem).

Group Five Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Bulgaria	4	3	0	1	10	5	9
Russia	4	2	2	0	10	2	8
Cyprus	5	1	1	3	5	12	4
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	1	10	0

Leading contenders closing in on France '98 places

LONDON (Reuters) - The World Cup finals in France may still be more than a year away but they will seem much closer than that for a handful of countries if results go their way today.

Romania, streaking away at the top of group eight with a 100 per cent record of five wins, could be excused for booking their plane tickets this week if they beat Ireland in Bucharest.

Already boasting a maximum total of 15 points and a goal tally of 19-0, Romania would move eight points clear of second-placed Macedonia with both countries having four matches to play.

The Netherlands are also in a commanding position in group seven - and should pick up three more points by beating tiny San Marino.

Ideally the Dutch would like Turkey and Belgium, who meet in Istanbul, to draw on Wednesday. Belgium are currently three points behind the Netherlands with a game in

hand - but have already lost 3-0 to the Dutch at home.

Scotland also look set to qualify from group four but their seven-point lead is not quite as secure as it might appear.

Scotland have 14 points from six matches but have played two matches more than every other team in the group. If they were to beat Sweden in Gothenburg they would, at worst, be guaranteed second place in the group.

Norway could also take a big step towards the finals if they beat Finland as expected in Oslo in a group three match. The Norwegians have a 100 per cent record after three games and a goal tally of 9-0. Switzerland and Hungary look set to battle for second place.

In group two the tussle between leaders Italy and second-placed England could become even closer if England beat Georgia as expected at Wembley and Italy fail to beat Poland for the second time in a month fol-

lowing their 0-0 draw in Poland four weeks ago.

Italy currently lead the group with 13 points, four ahead of England who have a match in hand. The Poles will be all but eliminated if they lose in Naples.

Group one looks set to become a straight fight between Denmark and Greece - especially if Greece beat Croatia in Salonika.

Greek coach Costas Polychronidis said the match was crucial and could hold the key to who qualifies from the group.

"If we win, Croatia will be literally out of the race and Denmark will be the only ones chasing us. The Croats play their last card in Salonika and I expect a difficult match."

He said Greece wanted three wins in their remaining three matches - at home against Croatia, away to Slovenia and at home against Denmark - "so that we qualify on our own and don't depend on the results of the others".

The Danes are optimistic about beating Slovenia, despite being without midfielder and skipper Michael Laudrup who has a knee injury.

There is also a close fight for qualification in group six which sees leaders Spain (16 points from six matches), take on second-placed Yugoslavia (15 from six) in Belgrade. Third-placed Slovakia are not out of the hunt yet but will have to wait until May 21 when they face the Czech Republic to further their cause.

In all 19 European matches are being played on Wednesday and most will have a major bearing on the outcome of the qualifiers.

But one, in group six, is purely about pride. The Faroe Islands, who have lost all their five games with a goal tally of 5-22 travel to Valletta to face Malta, who have lost all their six games, without scoring once and conceding 27 in the process.

Capello leaving Real Madrid

MADRID (AP) - Real Madrid's Italian coach Fabio Capello will leave the league-leading club at the end of the season.

Speaking to a Madrid radio station Monday night, Capello said irreconcilable differences with team president Lorenzo Sanz were the reason he plans to exit after just one season at the head of Spain's most storied club.

With seven games to play in the Spanish league, Madrid leads FC Barcelona by eight points, sporting an impressive 23 wins against just one loss and 11 draws.

Capello joined Real Madrid after winning four Italian league titles in five years at AC Milan.

A week ago, he traveled to Italy reportedly to negotiate with Milan president Silvio Berlusconi about a return to his former club.

Brewers hammer Rangers 14-8

MILWAUKEE (AP) - Marc Newfield tied his career high with four runs batted in and Dave Nilsson hit a three-run homer Monday as Milwaukee routed Texas 14-8, snapping the Rangers five-game winning streak.

Milwaukee scored five runs in the first inning and added four each in the second and third innings to open a 13-2 lead. The Brewers had 12 hits in the first three innings, including six doubles. Milwaukee has won three straight following a six-game losing streak.

Ben McDonald (3-2) allowed seven runs, four earned, on eight hits in 5.2-3 innings, but was chased during a five-run Texas sixth.

Yankees 6, Mariners 5

In New York, Joe Girardi's first home run since last August broke an eighth-inning tie and completed the New York Yankees' comeback from a four-run deficit Monday night for a

6-5 win over the Seattle Mariners.

The bullpen kept the Yankees' close, and Mariano Rivera worked the ninth for his seventh save.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Mets 15, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Todd Hundley and Butch Huskey homered to open a seven-run inning - New York's biggest in more than a year - and the Mets rolled to a 15-2 victory Monday night over the Cincinnati Reds.

The Mets batted around for five runs in the third inning, then sent 11 batters to the plate for seven runs in the fifth against the NL's worst pitching staff. It was the Mets' biggest inning since they scored eight against St. Louis on April 25 last year.

New York piled up 17 hits, its best total in five years.

Rick Reed (2-1) pitched eight strong innings for his second victory over the Reds in a week.

John Smiley (1-5) took his fifth consecutive loss by giving up six hits and six runs in only 2.2-3 innings.

Braves 14, Dodgers 0

In Atlanta, Tom Glavine allowed only three hits in seven innings, Jeff Blauser and Javy Lopez each hit two-run homers and the streaking Atlanta Braves routed Ramon Martinez and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Blauser went 3-for-3 to raise his average to .411.

Martinez (2-2) allowed 11 hits and eight earned runs in five innings. Glavine (4-0) retired the last 11 batters he faced.

Monday's AL games: Milwaukee 14, Texas 8; N.Y. Yankees 6, Seattle 5.

Monday's NL games: N.Y. Mets 15, Cincinnati 2; Atlanta 14, Los Angeles 0; Chicago Cubs 5, Montreal 2; Pittsburgh 9, Philadelphia 4, 12 innings; St. Louis 5, San Francisco 2; Colorado 7, Houston 6, 10 innings; Florida 12, San Diego 9.

Knicks, Jazz sweep series

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) - The New York Knicks made more than 50 percent of their field goals for the third straight game as they completed a first-round sweep of the Charlotte Hornets with a 104-95 victory on Monday night.

Former Hornet Larry Johnson had 22 points to lead seven players in double figures for New York, which advanced to the Eastern Conference semifinals for the sixth consecutive season.

The Knicks will meet either the Miami Heat or the Orlando Magic. The Heat holds a 2-0 lead in that series.

The Knicks, who shot 56 percent, finished the series at 57 percent. They also swept the Cleveland Cavaliers last season.

NBA playoff results

Monday's games: New York 104, Charlotte 95, New York wins series 3-0; Utah 104, L.A. Clippers 92, Utah wins series 3-0.

SCOREBOARD

ICE HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - Final yesterday: Pool B Sweden 4, Norway 1; Pool A: Germany 6, Finland 4.

TABLE TENNIS - China won the women's team title for the 11th time in the world table tennis championships in Manchester yesterday beating North Korea 3-0.

LOCAL SCENE

Israel rugby team crush London French 44-8

By HEATHER CHAIT

For the first forty minutes, the visiting London French rugby club may have thought things were going well but after the half-time score of 8-3, the Israelis took matters into their own hands, romping to a 44-8 victory. The second-half scoring spree included six tries, three of which were converted. Responsible for the tries were Daron Fincus (two), Dean du Plessis (two), Mark Goldin, Larry Gordon and Fabian Rios.

The result will be a boost for the side which leaves on May 9 to play against Yugoslavia and the Ukraine in the World Cup qualifying rounds.

Saifing: After just four years on the high seas, Shani Kedmi and Anat Fabrikant from Hapoel Tel Aviv brought home their first medal from a major international tournament.

The two took third place in the 470-Olympic division at an event,



Record setter

Aravinda de Silva became the first batsman in test history to score two unbeaten centuries in one match as Sri Lanka scored victory over Pakistan in the second and final Test yesterday. De Silva followed his 138 not out with 103 not out to help power Sri Lanka's second innings to 386 for four declared on the fourth day, setting Pakistan 426 to win the match and series. De Silva's batting has dominated the short series in which he has stroked three consecutive hundreds. He hit 168 in the second innings of the drawn first Test in Colombo.

(AP)

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CRITIC'S CHOICE

CIRCUS

HELEN KAYE
The Moscow Circus with Oleg the Clown, animal acts and clowns on the trapeze begins a four-day run at the Haifa Sports Stadium with shows at 10 a.m., 4 and 7 p.m., (10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Friday).

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT
For the first time in Israel, Bellini's masterpiece *Norma* comes to the stage as Israeli-born maestro Pinchas Steinberg leads the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in a concert performance of this poignant and fiery love affair which concludes in double suicide. Soprano Alessandra Marc sings the *David* part, while tenor Alberto Cupido sings the *Pollicino* part. The opera begins to unfold when Pollicino begins to sing another *David* part, before returning to his first love as they mount the burning pyre in tandem. Tomorrow and Saturday at the Maim Auditorium in Tel Aviv, next Tuesday and Thursday at the Haifa Auditorium (8:30 p.m. except Saturday at 9 p.m.), with further performances May 13 in Haifa, May 15 and 18 in Tel Aviv and May 21 in Jerusalem.



Pinchas Steinberg conducts the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

really raunchy porn magazines in America. Instead, of the grim civics lesson one might expect from this summary, the movie turns out to be a terrifically energetic character study - reminiscent at times of one of Norman Mailer's semidocumentary pop-cultural novels - and a passionate ode to American entrepreneurial brashness, to American bad taste, if you will. Seediness and stupidity, it turns out, are both protected by the Bill of Rights, and *Forman* seems drawn as much to the sordid side of red-white-and-blue capitalism as he is to the enduring legacy of the laws set down by the founding fathers. As Larry's wife, Althea, rock-star Courtney Love is terrifically raw; she gives the rare, unfiltered sort of performance that doesn't feel acted at all. Also with Edward Norton and a series of cameos played against type by James Carville, Donna Hanover, and the real-life Larry Flynt. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult.)

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN
On Channel 33, tonight at 9:15, we will have the pleasure of seeing *John Lennon*, a film by and about him and Yoko Ono. The movie was filmed in their estate in England in 1971 and includes clips from the album *Imagine*, undoubtedly Lennon's greatest album after *The Beatles*.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN
***1/2 THE PEOPLE VS. LARRY FLYNT - Woody Harrelson stars in Milos Forman's film about the life, loves and legal hassles of the publisher of *Hustler*, one of the first

*** PRISONER OF THE MOUNTAINS - Based on a Tolstoy novella about the kidnap of two Russian soldiers by a tribe of "stinking" Tatars, Sergei Bodrov's film feels haunted. The movie is set in the present, but takes place against the same backdrop Tolstoy described some 150 years ago: war-torn Chechnya. While Bodrov sticks quite closely to the outline of the novella, his movie leaves us, almost inevitably, with a darker feeling. A nominee for this year's best foreign-film Oscar, the tale is told simply, from the point of an eager if bumbling young recruit (played by the director's son), sent with the army into the war zone. Also with Oleg (Burnt by the Sun) Menshikov. (Russian dialogue, Hebrew and English subtitles. Not recommended for children.)

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News Flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel
12:05 Music
12:30 On War and Peace
12:35 How to Draw
12:40 The Night
12:45 Social Sciences
12:50 English
1:45 Programs for the very young
12:50 Years of Zionism
11:15 Geography
11:40 Judaism
12:05 Music
12:35 Science and Technology
13:00 In the Heat of the Night
14:00 Surprise Train
14:20 Killy Cat and Tommy
14:35 Quotient Quick

CHANNEL 2

15:00 Anne of Green Gables
15:50 A New Evening
17:35 News in English
17:50 Soccer: Israel vs. Russia
18:45 News in Arabic
18:55 Soccer - 20:00 News
20:45 Conference Call
21:20 The Cape
22:05 No Man's Land
23:00 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 3

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Johnny Quest
6:55 This Morning - with Gail Gazit and Rivka Michaeli
9:00 This Morning
9:55 Senora
10:48 Dynasty
11:42 London's Parliament
12:30 The Five Mrs. Buchanans
13:00 El and Jules
13:05 Open House
14:00 The Kids of Degraess Street
14:30 Tic Tac - quiz show
15:00 Itch and Mich
15:20 Madison
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshef
17:30 Sport TV - for youth
18:00 Roseanne
18:30 Touched by an Angel
19:25 Blind Date
20:30 Wheel of Fortune - with Erez Tal and Sigal Shalhmon
22:00 Cape Fear (1991) - a newly released convict vows revenge on the lawyer who sent him to prison, especially on his daughter, with Nick Nolte, Robert De Niro, Jessica Lange and Juliette Lewis. Directed by Martin Scorsese.
00:00 News
00:05 Cape Fear - cont'd.
00:45 Shalom Hanoch and Joan Armatrong in concert
1:37 Secret Servant
2:30 On the Edge of the Shell

JORDAN TV

14:00 Holy Koran
14:05 The Muppet Show
14:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond
15:00 French programs
16:00 America's Funniest People
16:25 Escape from Jupiter
16:50 Challenge

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12:35 Science and Technology
13:00 In the Heat of the Night
14:00 Surprise Train
14:20 Killy Cat and Tommy
14:35 Quotient Quick

CHANNEL 2

15:00 Anne of Green Gables
15:50 A New Evening
17:35 News in English
17:50 Soccer: Israel vs. Russia
18:45 News in Arabic
18:55 Soccer - 20:00 News
20:45 Conference Call
21:20 The Cape
22:05 No Man's Land
23:00 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 3

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Johnny Quest
6:55 This Morning - with Gail Gazit and Rivka Michaeli
9:00 This Morning
9:55 Senora
10:48 Dynasty
11:42 London's Parliament
12:30 The Five Mrs. Buchanans
13:00 El and Jules
13:05 Open House
14:00 The Kids of Degraess Street
14:30 Tic Tac - quiz show
15:00 Itch and Mich
15:20 Madison
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshef
17:30 Sport TV - for youth
18:00 Roseanne
18:30 Touched by an Angel
19:25 Blind Date
20:30 Wheel of Fortune - with Erez Tal and Sigal Shalhmon
22:00 Cape Fear (1991) - a newly released convict vows revenge on the lawyer who sent him to prison, especially on his daughter, with Nick Nolte, Robert De Niro, Jessica Lange and Juliette Lewis. Directed by Martin Scorsese.
00:00 News
00:05 Cape Fear - cont'd.
00:45 Shalom Hanoch and Joan Armatrong in concert
1:37 Secret Servant
2:30 On the Edge of the Shell

JORDAN TV

14:00 Holy Koran
14:05 The Muppet Show
14:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond
15:00 French programs
16:00 America's Funniest People
16:25 Escape from Jupiter
16:50 Challenge

with Guy Fines

18:00 Local broadcast
18:00 One Life to Live
19:15 The Young and the Restless
19:30 Sunset Beach
20:50 Melrose Place
21:40 Savannah
22:30 Love Story
23:00 Friends (pt)
23:25 ER (pt)
00:15 ER (pt)
00:15 ER (pt)
00:15 ER (pt)

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Stolen Innocence (1995) (pt)
12:30 New in the Cinema
13:15 The Rape of Doctor Wills (1991) (pt)
14:30 Perry Mason: The Lethal Lesson (1993) - a law student is murdered and Perry Mason must save his intern, with Raymond Burr
15:30 Special Report on Space Jam with Michael Jordan
16:45 Man Trouble (1992) - comedy with Dean Cain, Jack Nicholson, Merle Richardson, Merle Richardson and Beverly D'Angelo
18:30 Leap of Faith (1992) - with Steve Martin, and Debra Winger
20:20 Say a Little Prayer (1997) (pt)
22:40 Circuit Breaker (1995) - science fiction with Corbin Bernsen
23:35 Shootfighter (1995) (pt)
1:10 Baby Face Nelson (1995) - the story of George Jackson, protégé of Al Capone and one of the most ruthless gangsters in 1920s Chicago.
2:40 The Hit List (1992) (pt)

CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons
6:30 Alice in Wonderland
9:30 Six in Spring
9:45 Power Rangers
10:20 Freekzoo
10:45 Six in Spring
10:50 Little University
11:15 Six in Spring
11:45 Party of Five
12:30 Hugo
13:00 Make-believe
13:10 The Adventures of Pinocchio
13:10 The Muppets
14:05 Simba the Lion King
14:30 Alice in Wonderland
15:00 The Center of Things - Volunteering on the Children's Channel
15:30 Beverly Hills 90210
16:25 Weird Science
16:50 The Center of Things
17:00 Magical Hour with Yael Abecassis
18:00 Hugo
18:30 The Adventures of Pinocchio
19:00 Little Flying Bears
19:30 Fun on Six
20:20 Animaniacs
20:30 The World of the Future
20:45 Roseanne
21:15 The Cosby Show
21:35 Different World

SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Quarter (1991) - a complicated triangle between a young woman with a husband in jail and a married couple. Directed by James Ivory. With Isabelle Adjani, Alan Bates, Anthony Higgins and Maggie Smith.
22:45 The Thin Red Line (1993) - propaganda doc-drama produced by Alexander Korda detailing the chain of

EUROSPORT

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NEWS

in brief

Panel trying to lighten pupils' load

There is good news for youngsters who struggle under the burden of heavy school bags. The Union of Local Authorities has announced plans to set up a panel to look into ways to lighten the youngsters' load.

The committee, which will include doctors, educators and local council heads, will try to find "the best and healthiest solution for these young pupils forced to carry such heavy loads," according to committee chairman Shmuel Abuav, who is also chairman of the union's education committee.

Meanwhile, the Education Ministry announced that all schools will operate as normal on May Day. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Robbers steal NIS 130,000 from McDonald's

Masked robbers reaped an end-of-Pessah jackpot yesterday morning - stealing an estimated NIS 130,000 from the McDonald's branch in the Hutzot Ha'Mifratz shopping mall in Haifa.

The restaurant had been packed the previous night with people wanting to bite into something more substantial than unleavened bread following the end of Pessah.

Haifa district spokesperson Superintendent Shlomit Minkovsky said two masked raiders held-up a woman worker who was alone in the restaurant early yesterday morning. She said they threatened the woman with the knife and forced her to open the safe and hand over the contents. They reportedly then bound her and fled from the scene on foot. *David Rudge*

Katsav appoints Arab affairs adviser

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, who also is the minister responsible for Arab affairs, yesterday appointed Motti Zakan as his adviser on Arab issues.

Zakan, who specializes in the study of Kurds and other minority groups in the Middle East, is a doctoral candidate in Hebrew University's Islamic and Middle East Studies department, in which he also teaches. *Itim*

New Sheikh Hussein Bridge opens today

The permanent Sheikh Hussein Bridge between Israel and Jordan opens to traffic today, replacing the narrow, temporary bridge that has been in use at the border crossing for two years.

The new bridge, located in the Beit She'an Valley near Kibbutz Maoz Haim, is 100 meters long and has one two-lane strip. It is part of Route 71, the Afula-Beit She'an-Amman road. The bridge cost NIS 6.5 million, with associated road and lighting work costing an additional NIS 3.5m.

Jordan plans to build a similar bridge next to the Israeli one, to be financed by Japan.

Each bridge will act as a crossing point, facilitating the smooth flow of traffic between the two countries. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Tapuah Zahav, Mul Hayam best restaurants

According to the latest edition of the Israel edition of *Gaultmillau*, the noted French restaurant guide, the two best local restaurants are Tapuah Zahav and Mul Hayam, both in Tel Aviv.

At both, a meal for two, including a bottle of table wine, is over NIS 500. In contrast to the 1996 edition, which appeared with both Hebrew and English texts, the 1997-98 edition is only in Hebrew. A spokesman for the publishers said that an English version is due in the future. *Haim Shapiro*

Ex-Japanese ministers visiting

Former Japanese prime minister Tomiichi Murayama arrived yesterday for a private visit, accompanied by previous foreign minister Yohei Kono and ex-finance minister Masayoshi Takemura. The three will meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, and Yuval Rabin. Diplomatic and economic relations between Tokyo and Jerusalem first blossomed when Murayama and Yitzhak Rabin were in power. *David Harris*

1 killed, 5 hurt on roads

A man was killed and his friend was seriously injured when their car overturned near Moshav Telalim in the Negev yesterday morning. The injured man was taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

In a second accident in the Negev, four people were lightly

injured when two cars collided head-on at the entrance to the parking lot at Kibbutz Yovata's restaurant. A car heading north began to turn left into the kibbutz from the Arava Highway, but suddenly changed directions and turned right into the restaurant parking lot and crashed into a car heading south. A kibbutz ambulance took the two injured to Josephthal Hospital in Eilat. *(Itim)*



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shakes hands at Mimouna celebrations yesterday at Jerusalem's Saffra Square, where thousands gathered to mark the holiday - some more lightheartedly than others. (Brita McBurney, Isaac Harari)

Music, food, politicians at Mimouna

By ELI WOHLGELER

Mimouna took on a different flavor in Jerusalem this year. No meat.

Well, not exactly. The traditionalists still parked their grills in Sacher Park and smoked up the usual assortment of Moroccan delicacies, while vendors sold corn-on-the-cob, cotton candy, and falafel as part of the festival to mark the end of Pessah.

But at the main event, in Saffra Square at City Hall, it was music that was served up, and the thousands there seemed pretty content. The tunes were a bit of this and a bit of that, including singers and dancers from Tajikistan and Russia, some Moroccan songs, the banging of drums and tambourines, and plenty of Israeli stars singing Sephardi melodies.

Celebrations were held in parks and halls around the country, with celebrants of North African descent sharing their delicacies and music with well-wishers.

At Gan Hashlosha (Sakhne), police had to turn away visitors, as the park was totally filled with Mimouna celebrants. Those turned away were directed to celebrations at other locations. In Eilat, 20 kilograms of *mugila*, a traditional pastry, was a major attraction at a celebration at the Laguna Hotel.

Everywhere, of course, there were politicians. In Jerusalem, they came mainly from the right,

knowing a natural constituency when they see one. Mayor Ehud Olmert came through first to work the crowd, shaking hands, signing autographs, and caressing the faces of little children.

He was followed by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who also waltzed through the masses, glad-handing everyone. Others included Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky, Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, and Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi.

The final show was Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who arrived after first visiting Sacher Park. Heavy security prevented him from walking through the crowd, but he addressed them from the podium, while Likud youth held up signs saying "Bibi, the people are with you."

The premier said a book he was reading by non-Jewish tourists to Palestine, which includes a passage by Mark Twain, who described the desolation he saw north of Jerusalem.

"Today there are neighborhoods there around Jerusalem, like Givat Ze'ev, and other neighborhoods that we have built and are building, like in Har Homa. Today we are building a life for Arabs, as well as for ourselves."

At the end of his speech he approached the audience and began shaking hands, much to the chagrin of the security detail.



Netanyahu was expected at an Iranian celebration at the National Park in Ramat Gan last night. Mordechai, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, and Labor MK Ehud Barak were also expected.

With so many politicians around, it was hard - despite the party atmosphere - not to think of that symbol of Sephardi politics, Aryeh Deri. Many among the Jerusalem crowd were his followers.

"Many people love him, but they don't know all the facts," said Gavriel Ratzabi, sitting in the booth along the outside of the square displaying Yemenite food and objects. "They love him, and they believe what he says. But it's not a question of what he did. It's politics, and if they want to screw him, they'll take the smallest thing and make it so big."

A Bucharan man sitting in the adjacent booth agreed, saying he doesn't believe it is an anti-Sephardi thing, but "I don't know if it's true, or if he's a liar, or if they're sticking it to him."

One bystander, a New York City teacher visiting for the year, said: "I think there is prejudice and discrimination here in the country. People here are bound for their beliefs," but that it can be taken too far.

"It's like the in the States; as soon as someone is accused of something, they cry 'racism.'"

She said the investigation's aftermath is a particularly Israeli thing. "I think it's a little suspicious that after three months, they have an investigation and they don't have any hard proof. Now they're calling for another investigation. Where is it going to end?" *Itim contributed to this report*



AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW F		HIGH F		
Amsterdam	07	45	12	54	cloudy
Berlin	10	50	17	63	clear
Buenos Aires	11	55	25	77	partly
Cairo	08	46	13	56	clear
Chicago	08	46	13	56	clear
Copenhagen	08	46	13	56	clear
Frankfurt	08	46	13	56	clear
Geneva	08	46	14	57	clear
Helsinki	08	46	14	57	clear
Hong Kong	24	75	29	84	clear
London	13	55	25	77	clear
Los Angeles	17	58	18	61	cloudy
Madrid	12	54	22	72	clear
Moscow	07	45	15	59	clear
Montreal	07	45	15	59	clear
New York	11	50	18	64	clear
Paris	09	45	18	64	cloudy
Rome	09	45	18	64	cloudy
Stockholm	14	57	26	79	partly
Tokyo	13	55	25	77	clear
Toronto	08	46	13	56	partly
Vancouver	08	46	13	56	partly
Zurich	08	46	13	56	partly

Winning cards

In yesterday's Chance draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, queen of hearts, jack of diamonds, and 10 of clubs.

Turkish defense minister arrives

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Turkish Defense Minister Turgut Tanay arrives today for an official three-day visit.

Tanay's visit comes following the February visit of the Turkish Chief of Staff, Gen. Ismail Karadayi and also amid a showdown in Turkey between the secular military and the Turkish government coalition led by the Islamic-backed Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

Tanay is to be greeted by his counterpart Yitzhak Mordechai this morning at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. The two also are to hold a briefing session on the strategic relations between the two countries and the relative situation in the Middle East.

Since signing a defense cooperation agreement last year, representatives from both countries have periodically met to set the agenda of the pact. Such a meeting is set for next week. The commitment is expected to tighten strategic ties between Jerusalem and Ankara at a time when both are concerned about a growing threat from Iran.

Earlier this month, the Turkish Parliament ratified a pact expected to quadruple bilateral trade to \$2 billion by the year 2000.

Israel is currently upgrading over 50 F-4s as for Turkey, which has embarked on a rearmament program. Tanay and his delegation are slated to visit Israel Aircraft Industries to observe the upgrading.

Israel considers Tanay's visit an important sign that the military alliance signed last year with Turkey is on stable ground.

Still, Tanay, a lawyer and former education minister, is not considered to be as powerful as the military brass which have visited Israel. He and Mordechai became defense ministers around the same time.

Reports from Ankara say the Turkish government's days are numbered, despite efforts by Deputy Premier Tansu Ciller to assume the reins from Erbakan as part of an accelerated rotation agreement. The Turkish military also is pressuring the government to shut down Islamic-oriented schools and to enforce the ban on Islamic-style clothing.

Levy, Mordechai warn Syria over nerve gas

By DAVID RUDGE and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Israel is closely monitoring developments in Syria in light of reports that Damascus, with the aid of Russian experts, has succeeded in manufacturing a particularly deadly form of nerve gas known as VX. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Foreign Minister David Levy both said yesterday.

According to reports, the Syrians are now in the first stages of putting VX into warheads for its Scud missiles.

Mordechai warned against anybody provoking Israel and once again urged the Syrians to resolve problems around the negotiating table.

He spoke to reporters during a visit to Mimouna celebrations in Kiryat Shmona.

Mordechai said he had emphasized Syria's efforts to produce "advanced weapons in various fields" six months ago and had raised the issue here and abroad, including in talks with the defense ministers of the US and Britain.

"We are closely monitoring these matters and we have all the capabilities, if God forbid this should prove necessary," he said. "I reiterate, however, that we want to talk with the Syrians. We want to find a formula for a solution. We have no intention of confrontation."

Levy noted that Israel has the means to deter any enemy "in

ways beyond anything the other side can imagine."

He noted however that it is preferable to advance toward peace by realistic negotiations, something Syria is still refusing to do, rather than scare tactics.

He said that "Israel is following this and other developments, and has the ways and means to deter any enemy."

Levy expressed fervent hope that "in addition to this insane race, there is also a brain thinking what he should and what he shouldn't do. We are developing deterrence means, so that the other side understands it is not the only one which has control of such a severe thing, and that we too control things seven times worse."

S. Koreans here to study immigrant absorption

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The highest-ranking and largest South Korean delegation ever to visit here has arrived for a three-day visit to study how Israel absorbs its immigrants, in anticipation of the expected eventual unification of South and North Korea.

Korean officials believe this will lead to mass migration from the north to the south.

The 12-member delegation includes nine directors-general of South Korean government ministries, and representatives from the presidential palace, the Interior, Foreign, Defense,

Education, and other ministries. The Koreans will be given a seminar on immigrant integration today, with Absorption, Finance, and Housing ministry officials.

Among those scheduled to address the visitors is Arnon Mantver, director-general of the Joint Distribution Committee,

Israel, who will brief them on Operation Solomon when 15,000 immigrants arrived in 36 hours.

"They are particularly interested in the area of employment," Absorption Ministry spokesman Yehuda Glick said, "since they expect refugees to arrive without skills."



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